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Inter-Arab Affairs

Saddam Husayn 'Warning' To Israel Examined

PM0404105690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Apr 90 p 13

[Editorial: "Israeli Arrogance and Heavy Price"]

[Text] Is this the end of the era when Israel dared to extend its arm of aggression to a target on the Arab-Israeli border—and sometimes beyond? Has the page been turned on Israeli generals who allowed themselves to violate the airspace, territorial waters, and sovereignty of other states to launch retaliatory and preemptive strikes? Is this the end of the era when Israel commited its aggression without any fear of being challenged or of a counterattack on the territory of aggression?

All these questions were raised yesterday following Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's speech in which he sent a very clear message of warning to the effect that the Zionist entity would pay a heavy price for any new Israeli aggression on Iraq.

Israeli piracy reached its peak in the eighties: The nuclear reactor in Iraq was hit, Beirut was invaded, the Palestinian president's home at Hammam al-Shatt was bombed, and Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] was assassinated. Then Israel extended the circle of aggression and continued to launch its strikes against states and peoples.

Next Israel turned to state terrorism, which it is implementing under pretexts whose goals are known. Then it fabricated an uproar about growing Arab military capabilities at a time when it is no longer a secret that it has an arsenal of nuclear weapons deliberately ignored by Western circles, which hasten to express their concern about the development of any weapons possessed by the Arabs.

Perhaps the importance of Saddam's statement lies primarily in the fact that it coincides with the escalating anti-Iraq campaign, whose objective seems to be to justify a new Israeli aggression on Iraq's installations and territory. What is clear in the Iraqi president's speech is that any new Israeli adventure would spark a destructive military confrontation quantitatively and qualitatively different from all previous Arab-Israeli confrontations.

In fact the Iraqi president clearly emphasized that any guarantees regarding Israeli territory would be worthless if Israel launched a new aggression on Iraq.

Perhaps that very strong warning will prompt Israel's leaders to revise their calculations before opening a new chapter of arrogance. Perhaps it will prompt the major states to make a swift move to establish a just and comprehensive peace in a region which has become weighed down with weapons of mass destruction.

While the Palestinian intifadah has proved the occupation army's failure to suppress a people's revolution, the Iraqi president's speech emphasizes the strength of the intifadah's rear and turns over the page of the lightning strikes designed to disrupt the balances.

ACC Ministers Convene Emergency Meeting

Will Discuss Iraq, Jordan

JN0304205890 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Marwan al-Qasim said today that the extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] which will convene in Amman tomorrow will discuss recent developments in the Arab world. In a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, Mr. al-Qasim said one of the main issues will be the hostile threats against Iraq. The ACC foreign ministers will also discuss the U.S. Senate's resolution on Jerusalem and the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel. Furthermore, Mr. al-Qasim said that the ACC ministers will discuss the issue of the Israeli threats to Jordan. Referring to recent statements made by the Israeli officials, he said Israel regarded any coordination among Arab states as a threat to its security, especially the coordination between Jordan, Iraq, and the PLO.

Arrive, Make Statements

JN0404145690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The foreign ministers of Egypt, Iraq, and the Yemen Arab Republic, arrived in Amman today to take part in the emergency meeting of the ACC foreign ministers to convene later today. In arrival statements to journalists, the ACC foreign ministers affirmed the need to coordinate efforts and positions to face current dangers, particularly the Western and Israeli media campaign against Iraq, and Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine.

Begin Discussions 4 Apr

JN0404172790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Amman—The emergency meeting of the foreign ministers of the ACC states began in Amman this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, foreign minister of the Yemen Arab Republic.

During the meeting, the four ACC ministers will discuss the Western and Israeli media campaign against Iraq, and Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine.

Issue Statement Supporting Iraq

JN0504083290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Amman, 5 Apr (INA)—The foreign ministers of the ACC have stressed that the national security of sisterly Iraq is a basic part of the pan-Arab security and that the ACC states and the Arab nation are duty bound to defend Iraq against any aggression or threat to which it might be exposed.

In a statement issued at the conclusion of the extraordinary meeting they held in Amman yesterday, the foreign ministers emphasized their full solidarity with Iraq in its firm confrontation of the baseless allegations and slander, and called for an end to them. The ministers expressed their complete adherence to the right of Iraq and all the Arab countries to economic development and scientific and technological progress, asserting that the capabilities of Iraq and any other Arab country are devoted to legitimate self-defense against any aggression, and are not intended to threaten others or commit aggression.

The ministers drew attention to the fact that this campaign aims, among other things, at dealing a blow to the recently resumed Arab-European dialogue and harming the Arab-European historical relations, particularly in the light of the positive European positions toward the Palestine question. They called on the friendly European states to be alert to that and refrain from adopting whatever might undermine these relations or hamper their growth, stressing that common interest requires cooperation between the two sides.

The ministers reviewed the media campaigns and the hostile and tendentious political statements against Iraq whether regarding the execution of a spy convicted of dealing with Israel, or the recent campaign. All these campaigns are aimed at paving the way for an aggression against Iraq just like the Israeli aggression in 1981 against the Iraqi nuclear installations devoted for peaceful purposes—an aggression which was unanimously condemned by the UN Security Council.

The ACC ministers affirmed that their states, which are signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, work continuously to turn the Middle East into an area free of nuclear arms. They urged the international community to force Israel to submit to the international will, sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and place its nuclear installations under international supervision and guarantees according to Security Council Resolution No. 487.

The ACC ministers also expressed their conviction that, in the interest of international and regional security, any viable and effective solution to issues related to the proliferation of nuclear arms must be based on the equal banning of all weapons and systems of mass destruction whether they are nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons. The ministers affirmed that the nuclear, chemical, and intelligence threat to which the Arab nation is exposed, places before it the duty to defend itself, and that easing tension calls for abiding by international charters.

In another development, the ministers recalled the decision adopted by the ACC second summit held in Amman last February with regard to the Jewish emigration from the USSR and Eastern Europe. The ministers affirmed their countries' opposition to this emigration aimed at settling the new emigrants in the Arab territory occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, as well as at expelling the Palestinians from their territory.

The ACC ministers were unanimous that the challenges facing the Arab nation, including this campaign against Iraq, together with the constant Israeli threats to Jordan, require that the Arab nation exercise the highest level of caution and vigilance and require a united Arab stance to protect the land and legitimate Arab interests.

Al-Qasim To Hold Press Conference

JN0504090790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The ACC states will conclude their meetings in Amman today after a number of sessions by the four ministers to discuss Arab issues, particularly the Western-Zionist campaign against Iraq. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will hold a press conference at the Plaza Hotel before noon today to announce the results of the ministers' meetings.

Islamic Affairs

OIC Condemns Senate Resolution on Jerusalem

LD2603180290 Kuwait KUNA in English 1457 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Jeddah, March 26 (KUNA)—Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid Monday denounced the recent resolution by the American Senate which regards the city of al-Quds (Jerusalem) as the eternal capital of Israel.

In a statement by OIC Secretariat General made available to KUNA, al-Ghabid said it is all the more surprising because the adoption of such a resolution by this respected American institution which made, through centuries, justice and right the cornerstone of its action in the service of the American people and all mankind, represents a real challenge to profoundly attached to their religious feelings for the holy city of al-Quds al-Sharif which was the first Qibla [target of prayer] and remains one of the holiest shrines of Islam. [sentence as received]

Moreover, this resolution represents a total denial of the legal and historical rights of the Palestinian people over their land of Palestine as well as an incomprehensible

attempt for legalizing the occupation by force of the territories of others, regardless of international law and U.N. General Assembly and the Security Council resolutions, al-Ghabid said.

It should also be pointed out that this resolution passed by the American Senate comes at a time when much goodwill is being displayed throughout the world, including even in the United States, with a view to searching at the expense of laborious and patient efforts, ways and means liable to lead to a just and comprehensive solution of the issue of the Middle East and Palestine. In this regard, this inititiave constitutes an additional trap set, in an irresponsible manner, on the path to peace which goes against the traditional American stands on the staus of the city of al-Quds al-Sharif (Jerusalem), he said.

OIC top executive added, for all these reasons, the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference strongly denounces the passing by the American Senate of this resolution which is, in many respects, a deliberate attempt to re-inforce the stand of those who, even in Israel, are opposed, in an unreasonable and obstinate manner, to the efforts, at present, put in, on the international level so as to encourage the peace process, on healthy and legal bases, in the Middle East.

The OIC General Secretariat, basing itself on the well known principle of inadmissiblity of acquisition of the territories of [word indistinct] force and on the consequent resolutions of U.N. General Assembly and Security Council, reaffirm the invalidity of all these acts and decisions, aimed at annexing by Israel, the occupied Arab and Palestine territories, he said, stressing that al-Quds al-Sharif is and remains an occupied Arab territory.

In this respect, the OIC General Secretariat took note, with satisfaction, of the reaffirmation by the American President George Bush, of the reality and intangibility of the legal status of the city of al-Quds al-Sharif. It hereby calls on the American Administration to pursue its ongoing efforts, aimed at finding a just and definite settlement of [words indistinct] Palestine and the Middle East, he said.

At the same time, the OIC calls upon the member states and the international community to work for placing the occupied Palestinian territories, including the holy city of al-Quds al-Sharif, under international control, while looking for a comprehensive solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict, al-Ghabid concluded.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says Ready To Accept 'Namibian Model'

PM0404100490 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 3 Apr 90 p 9

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Guido Barendson in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpt] Tunis—[passage omitted] [Barendson] Mr. President, this is a very delicate time for your leadership. The lack of progress in starting a direct dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians is strengthening the extremists, and some of them could be tempted to exploit this in order to cause difficulties for your policy by returning to the strategy of tension. Mosad has informed our secret services that Abu Nidal is planning a series of attacks in Italy during the soccer World Cup.

['Arafat] First, I believe this information is false. Second, the moment we received any such indication from Italy we would be immediately ready to cooperate, because we cannot tolerate the organization of attacks against Italy.

[Barendson] The intifadah is entering its third year. People are still dying, without any solution becoming apparent, while some militants are stamping their feet, talking of the need for a leap forward and demanding a switch to armed struggle.

['Arafat] Undoubtedly. The Israeli Army and fanatical groups of armed colonizers are stepping up the crimes against my people, killing women and children, starving them, preventing them from educating themselves by keeping the schools and universities closed, and destroying houses and orchards. And I am under pressure from those asking to be allowed to use weapons to defend themselves, but I still say "no" and demand that the intifadah remain as it is, entrusted to my "generals"—the stone-throwing youths.

[Barendson] What prevents you from resuming the confrontation, at a time when not only do the negotiations seem blocked but the crisis in Israel threatens to last a long time? Are you still an incurable optimist?

['Arafat] No, I am not particularly optimistic, but I do retain some small hope. Of course, if the dialogue does not work on the political plane, we will be forced to return to weapons, but before that we will in any case pass through two other stages: an indefinite general strike and civil disobedience. Hitherto we have confined ourselves to limited and intermittent strikes and we still need to prepare ourselves for stepping things up. Be that as it may, the objective remains the same: It is to withstand the occupation until the occupation ceases.

[Barendson] So it all depends on the negotiations being handled by America—the negotiations that infuriate your enemies both inside and outside the PLO, prompting them to level charges of betrayal. How do you reply to the charges of having yielded too easily the strongest card in your hand—the recognition of Israel?

['Arafat] We experience a series of ups and downs with the United States. I will give you an example. When President Bush said that East Jerusalem is an occupied territory Congress replied that in fact it is an inseparable part of the unified capital of Israel. Furthermore, Baker says that it is time for the Israelis to forget about the Greater Israel, while the U.S. Administration itself supports the plans for the new Jewish immigration both to

Israel and to the occupied territories. But they have no right to bring in more immigrants before a final agreement has been reached, because it would mean altering the status of the territory.

[Barendson] You have recognized Israel and you are now disputing its right to move people around inside its borders. Does that not strike you as inconsistent?

['Arafat] No, because until we reach a stable agreement, moving so many people and establishing them between the occupied territories and Israel means disrupting the balance of forces. But do you know what the arrival of 300,000 people per year means? It means 3 million by the year 2000. And where will they go? They will people Greater Israel. ['Arafat ends]

That was the only time at which 'Arafat lost his temper. "Look, look," he exclaimed, taking a small golden coin out of the pocket of his uniform. "This is a 10 agora piece. It is a new Israeli coin. And what does it show? The Jewish seven-branched candelabrum against the background of an incredible map: an outline shows the region which goes from the Mediterranean to Mesopotamia, from the Red Sea to the Euphrates. It is a glaring demonstration of Zionist aspirations."

[Barendson] So why are you continuing to cherish the hope of a negotiated solution?

['Arafat] We have not yet reached deadlock. The negotiations are dragging because Baker maintains that once the next Israeli Government is formed there will be a meeting of the U.S., Egyptian, and Israeli foreign ministers to prepare for dialogue between the Israelis and Palestinians. Meanwhile, Israel is simply trying to postpone the moment of truth, and it may be allowed to do so through the support of the U.S. Administration which, at a time when Bush is talking of the end of the occupation, is doing nothing to end it. If this course is followed, things will deteriorate.

[Barendson] Mr. President, do you really think that the problem will one day be solved?

['Arafat] Listen, when the United States and Europe adopted a tough stance on South Africa, when they decreed economic sanctions, the South Africans were forced to give in: They abandoned Namibia and released Mandela. However, there is no pressure on Israel. Look at Namibia—I am prepared to accept the Namibian model which is a U.S. plan and which everybody supported from the Soviet Union to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. [passage omitted]

'Arafat To Meet Jimmy Carter in Paris 4 Apr

JN0304180290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Reports that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter will meet in Paris tomorrow were confirmed today. Confirmation came from Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, and from an Arab diplomatic source in the French capital. However, it is not yet known whether 'Arafat will meet with French officials during this short visit to Paris, which is not an official visit—unlike his first visit in May last year.

Arrives in Paris, Meets UN Officials

JN0404183490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1705 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived at the Crillon Hotel in Paris at 1645 today. Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] declined to make any statements to journalists who were waiting for him. He was content to say: We will speak later on. He was referring to the news conference he intends to hold after his meeting with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter tonight. Immediately after his arrival at the Crillon Hotel, 'Arafat held a one-hour meeting with Francis Blanchard, the UN secretary general's diplomatic adviser. The meeting dealt with the situation in the occupied territories.

French President Francois Mitterrand will receive Yasir 'Arafat and Jimmy Carter at the Elysee Palace this evening. 'Arafat and Carter will return to the Crillon Hotel where they will hold their talks.

According to Palestinian circles, the meeting is especially important not only because it is the first meeting between the two but also because it is closely connected to the Middle East peace process. Palestinian circles believe that Jimmy Carter's tour has provided the U.S. Administratiion with information and facts that Jimmy Carter expressed when he said that Palestinians—all Palestinians—consider the PLO as their sole and legitimate representative. The Palestinian sources said that the meeting would discuss how to give momentum to the peace process in spite of the Israeli rejection of the U.S. proposals. The sources added that there is no doubt that the 'Arafat-Carter meeting will discuss the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and the dangers resulting from Israeli procrastination in withdrawing from territories occupied in 1967, as well as the steps that should be taken to protect the rights of the Palestinian individual and halt Israeli violations of these rights.

Confers With Mitterrand, Carter

JN0504080290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Paris for over an hour last night. They met after they were received in audience by President Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace.

Following the Elysee meeting, Carter said Yasir 'Arafat had done his best over the last few months to promote the Middle East peace process. He added that some Middle East leaders do not express their peoples' hopes

and yearnings for peace, whether they are Israelis, Palestinians, Syrians, Jordanians, or Lebanese.

For his part, Yasir 'Arafat held a news conference in which he assessed the dimensions of the Paris meeting in his reply to a question by colleague Faridah al-Shubashi.

[Begin recording] [al-Shubashi] Mr. President, how do you evaluate your meeting with President Francois Mitterrand and then President Carter. What do you expect from these meetings? Can they be translated into practical steps for peace?

['Arafat] I consider these meetings important and even historic, particularly my meeting with President Carter under the sponsorship of President Mitterrand. During this tripartite meeting, we discussed important matters related to peace in the Middle East, the way to establish it, and the required international efforts in this regard. First of all, he [Carter] promoted the peace process. I met with the former U.S. president who made Camp David. He made peace between the largest Arab state and Israel. He enjoys moral influence not only in the United States, but also in the entire world. Before he came, he met with President Bush and other U.S. officials. Therefore, I think this meeting, particularly the first meeting with President Mitterrand, will push the peace process large strides forward. This will largely help toward establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region and contribute to pooling all international efforts for the sake of establishing this peace. [end recording]

Yasir 'Arafat, who will leave for Rome today on an official visit to Italy, feared that the aim of the heavy emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel is to establish Greater Israel. He called on the Israeli leaders to make the peace of the brave and said we should now await the formation of the new Israeli Government.

Pessimistic About Peace Opportunities

JN0504081790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Apr (WAKH)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that the main reason for the collapse of the Israeli Government and the fall of Yitzhaq Shamir was the Palestinian stone, represented by the blessed intifadah. This happens for the first time in Israel's history, he said, pointing out that the struggle and intifadah waged by the Palestinian people have cracked the Israeli entity, which was expecting a crack in the PLO.

In a statement to Abu Dhabi television tonight, president 'Arafat said the enlightened program adopted by the PLO through the Palestine National Council, and which produced the Palestinian peace intitiative, was the second reason for the collapse of Shamir's government and the rift in Israel.

The Palestinian president expressed his pessimism about peace opportunities even with a new Israeli government headed by Shim'on Peres. I do not think there is an opportunity for peace unless some miracle occurs, he said. He explained that Israel, whether under Shamir or Peres, is heading toward elections, and that the current struggle is over the party that will head the transitional government that will organize the elections.

What is now happening in Israel, he said, is an attempt to buy time because they believe they can suppress the intifadah. 'Arafat stressed, however, that the intifadah will continue, wave after wave, until the Israeli occupation is ended, the last Israeli soldier is withdrawn from the occupied Palestinian territories, and the Palestinian flag is raised over the Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem.

'Arafat asserted that the Likud and Labor parties hold similar views, whether concerning determination to end the intifadah, continuation of Jewish immigration to the Palestinian territories and settlement therein, or rejection of negotiations with the PLO and establishment of the Palestinian state.

We do not differentiate between a government led by Shamir, who has an ugly face, and one led by Peres, who tries to beautify Israel's face, especially in Europe, 'Arafat said.

He said he had not yet been informed, whether by Egypt or by the United States, of any bases for the Palestinian-Israeli-Egyptian talks. He stressed that he accepts elections as a basic step toward a UN-sponsored international conference attended by the Security Council five permanent member states and the parties to the conflict, including the PLO.

'Arafat said: We will not hold the dialogue for the sake of the dialogue, but as part of and a step toward the international conference.

The Palestinian president renewed his call for holding an Arab summit to discuss Arab developments. He expressed readiness to accept a Namibian-style solution to the Palestine question. He stressed that the PLO will not practice terrorism and that it is seeking peace by all means.

PCP Official Discusses Unity Plan, Changes

JN0404172390 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 2 Apr 90 pp 1, 20

[By Mustafa Abu-Libdah from Amman]

[Text] Of the PLO factions, the Palestinian Communist Party [PCP] is the fourth or fifth largest. However, its most distinct feature derives from the fact that most of its cadres operate inside the occupied territory, where it is strongly represented in the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah. This may give its latest draft plan—which AL-SIYASAH is disclosing now—to establish a unified leftist Palestinian party, a strong impact on the various organizations and factions with which it has been discussed. The plan has received immediate encouraging responses, especially from the Democratic

Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—the groups that are most affected by this question.

In a statement to AL-SIYASAH, Dr. Walid Mustafa, member of the PCP Central Committee and of the Palestine National Council [PNC], described the "unified leftist Palestinian party" plan as part of the new program unanimously approved by the PCP Central Committee last February. He said the PCP Central Committee preferred not to keep the plan behind closed doors, but "we raised the issue with our partners in the Palestinian and Arab liberation movement and with concerned Palestinian figures. We also wanted to hear their views on this."

Dr. Walid Musatafa says the new draft plan was prompted by two major factors. The first is that the intifadah and the occupied territories have become the center of Palestinian action. Consequently, the relationship between factions inside and outside the occupied territories and the best way to enhance was raised again. The previous PCP program was drawn up in 1983 after disengagement with the Jordanian Communist Party as a result of objective factors that developed at that time. Therefore, it was only natural that developments in the occupied territory be properly dealt with in a new program.

The second factor prompting the new plan concerns developments inside the Soviet Union and East Europe and their effects on overall world developments, especially in the Third World. The socialist bloc, the PCP Central Committee member indicated, no longer exists. He added that the transition from the era of military confrontation to one of international cooperation, naturally, affects us directly.

Because the major weight of the PCP exists inside the occupied territories, the new plan was initiated from inside the occupied territories. In the Central Committee meeting last February, the draft plan was raised, discussed, and approved. The draft plan raised the issue of the unity of the Palestinian leftist factions. In this context, the Left is a theoretical concept and is not intended as a classification of strugglers and non-strugglers.

Dr. Mustafa said: It is not acceptable to monopolize progressiveness or leftism. The call for the formation of a unified leftist party is not aimed at establishing a bloc against other parties in the national Palestinian liberation movement. On the contrary, we affirm that the PLO is the organizational framework of national Palestinian action. We adhere to this framework and seek to entrench it.

Disclosing the first details to be published about the PCP Central Committee's meeting and its new program, which has been described as being strongly in harmony with perestroyka as a new ideological course in leftist action in the Middle East, Dr. Walid Mustafa said the idea of changing the name of the Palestinian Communist Party was raised during the meeting. He added that it was agreed almost unanimously that, as a result of the new draft plan that expands the definition of the party and party membership and class affiliation with it, there was no need—theoretically—to maintain the name of the party. The Central Committee member continued: However, because we find ourselves in the circumstances of the intifadah, because the PCP, like other national factions, has an important role in the progress of the intifadah, because the party is not undergoing an organizational or ideological crisis, and in order to avoid any negative repercussions that changing the name of the party may have on the intifadah, the Central Committee has decided not to change the name of the party at present. The question, however, has been left open and it is being raised for discussion within the new draft plan among the party's members and friends, and a decision will be taken by the next general congress.

Regarding the changes in the internal structure of the PCP, they are, according to the Central Committee member: that one-third of the Political Bureau members should be changed every five years at least. As for the secretary general, the maximum period for which he can occupy that position is 10 years. In addition, the secretary general and the Political Bureau will submit their resignations to the Central Committee every year, which will either renew their term or withhold confidence based on the performance of each during the year.

Dr. Walid Mustafa said that these restrictions on the Central Committee were not directed against the recent activities of the Political Bureau or the secretary general. Nor was it an expression of dissatisfaction with their activities. On the contrary, there is high regard for all their activities; however, in order not to repeat past mistakes and tragedies of leading parties in Third World and East European countries where the political leader kept his his position till his death, leading to—among the worst results—resistance to innovation and change and, in some cases, petrification, then, as Dr. Walid Mustafa says, we realized that the renewal of the party leadership was a definite necessity to preserve its vitality and activity.

When asked by AL-SIYASAH, the member of the PCP Central Committee said that the name of the PCP's secretary general is not published because of the secret circumstances of activity inside and outside the areas of occupation. However, some party leaders are known, among them, Sulayman al-Najjab, PCP Political Bureau member and PLO Executive Committee member, and Political Bureau member Na'im al-Ashhab, who is exiled from inside the occupied territories. There is also Dr. Taysir al-'Aruri, physics professor at Bir Zeit University, also exiled from the occupied territories, and Dr. Mahir al-Sharif, chief editor of SAWT AL-WATAN magazine published in Cyprus.

Dr. Walid Mustafa described the Arab communist parties' reactions to the new plan as, in general, positive. However, this did not prevent scattered remarks on

numerous issues. For example, in our new draft plan's ideology we depend on the Marxist dialectic program, whereas some sisterly parties wish to adhere to the Marxist-Leninist program.

Dr. Walid Mustafa added: There is a new concept in our party on the subject of popular solidarity. However, some sisterly parties still believe in the necessity of depending on the popular proletariat. The new plan includes a new concept of the relationship between the Central Committee and democracy in giving more democracy to the cadres and bases and placing more restrictions and limitations on the Central Committee to prevent the occurrence of Central Committee sovereignty at the expense of democracy. In the final analysis, as Dr. Walid Mustafa said, every party has its own peculiar circumstances of struggle. Therefore, we do not believe that our plan and internal structure commit other parties too.

The PCP Central Committee member said that it has become almost a duty to form a new PNC, because the old one has ended its three sessions. Convening the PNC after re-forming it is a necessity, without going back on the Algiers conference program. We believe that the new PNC will adhere to the Algiers program and we will work toward that.

Dr. Walid Mustafa adds: There are continuous U.S. attempts to push us into other concessions that we oppose. There are Arab countries that agree with the U.S. steps. We are opposed to these attempts and believe that the Palestinians have done everything they can that is needed to achieve a just peace in the region based on two states for two peoples. There are some in the Palestinian arena that see this program as a concession. They expressed themselves in the PNC session at that time. At the same time, however, there is consensus inside the Palestinian forces, represented by the PLO, to adhere to this program.

Concerning Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine, the member of the PCP Central Committee said that contacts via the PLO and bilateral meetings with the Soviet leadership have led to acceptable steps that we believe will limit this danger.

Nevertheless, the matter needs a united Arab stance, since it is a joint responsibility. Dr. Walid Mustafa expressed his conviction that the Soviets will decide to allow freedom of travel so that Jewish citizens will have the right to leave as well as return.

Khalaf Cited on Talks With U.S. Delegation

PM0304150690 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 30 Mar 90 p 1

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, by Muhammad 'Ali Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with AL-MADINAH Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, Abu-Iyad, has emphasized that the U.S. Senate's decision to regard Jerusalem as the capital of Israel conflicts with the policy of the United States, which has recognized and is committed to Resolutions 242 and 338 which stipulate that the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem are occupied territories. Besides, President George Bush made a clear statement in that regard a few days ago. Salah Khalaf said that irrespective of the U.S. Administration's position, the resolution adopted by the Senate is illegal and illegitimate. It represents those senators alone. Abu-Iyad noted that the resolution constitutes a challenge and a blow to the Arab homeland and to European and world public opinion, because it defies the feelings of all people.

Salah Khalaf stressed that it was not unusual for the U.S. Senate to adopt such provocative resolutions, which are always biased toward and designed to appease Israel.

Regarding his recent talks with the U.S. delegation headed by Richard Murphy, former U.S. assistant secretary of state, Abu-Iyad told AL-MADINAH that these talks were not official and that the U.S. delegation had no authority. The meeting was an opportunity for an exchange of views—no more, no less. The U.S. delegation listened to our viewpoint. They—and especially Ambassador Atherton and Murphy—spoke on the basis of their experiences in the posts that they held in the past.

There follows the full text of the interview which AL-MADINAH conducted with Abu-Iyad on the recent U.S.-Palestinian meeting in Tunis. As is known, the U.S. delegation met with Yasir 'Arafat, Faruq Qaddumi, Salah Khalaf, Hani al-Hasan, and Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's special adviser:

AL-MADINAH: It has been said that the U.S. delegation asked what line the intifadah will pursue in the occupied territories and whether it will move to the stage of armed struggle.

Abu-Iyad: During the talks with the U.S. delegation the question arose: If ways of achieving a settlement remain blocked and there are no prospects of a just, comprehensive settlement in the region, will the intifadah turn to armed violence? Everyone's answer was that the intifadah would continue to shun firearms and that this method is based on the masses' compassion and peaceful nature.

AL-MADINAH: Did the U.S. delegation ask about the PLO's conditions for stopping the intifadah? And is it true that the U.S. condition for initiating negotiations and the peace process is to stop the intifadah?

Abu-Iyad: That question was not raised at all. Nor have we heard about such a U.S. condition—either officially or unofficially. And I do not believe that the U.S. Administration is thinking about it. In the first place,

they know that it is impossible to accept such a condition. Nor do I believe that the U.S. side would set such a condition in the future.

But the question which the U.S. delegation persisted in raising was: If ways of achieving a settlement are blocked, what means will you turn to? The discussion was general and was not confined to one means in particular.

AL-MADINAH: Did the U.S. delegation ask about relations between the PLO and the Palestinians inside?

Abu-Iyad: The question was about the killing of agents and why the intifadah did not respond to the PLO's appeals to stop the killing of agents collaborating with the Israeli authorities. Our answer was that the intifadah does not belong to organizations, so we cannot give them orders to obey. It is a people's intifadah.

'Abbas Discusses Ties to Jordan, Jewish Issue

PM0304111490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Mar 90 p 3

[Unattributed report on interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has emphasized the cordial relations and cooperation between the PLO and the Jordanian Government.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said that there is a common desire for further coordination and cooperation between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides in view of the important events which are taking place, and which will take place in the area. Such events require the present consultations and understanding, in view of present conditions and the common destiny. The situation necessitates cooperation at the highest level between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Abu-Mazin added that the dangers resulting from the Soviet Jews' emigration to occupied Palestine must be tackled with a joint approach and a joint stance in order to determine where the danger lies and how to deal with it. [passage omitted]

Abu-Mazin said that the Security Council must be urged to take a practical position on the issue of settlement in the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967. And we must discuss with the Council members the steps necessary for that position, as long as we obtain U.S. approval of the decision, if possible. This is because a U.S. veto or even an official reservation would give Israel the signal to behave as it pleases in that regard.

He also proposed that a neutral international body should supervise Jewish emigrants and determine and respond to their wishes.

He said: States such as the United States, Canada, Sweden, Australia, Brazil, and others can receive these emigrants, but for purely political reasons they have closed their doors or set obstacles in the way of Jewish emigration there, thus contradicting the most basic human rights, including the right to choose.

He also said that any further emigration to the occupied territories would constitute a violation of the human rights of the Palestinians living on these territories and would also affect the rights of the Israeli Arabs who are still suffering from discrimination and inequality. 'Abbas called this "the transfer"—a slogan being brandished by some Israeli parties and which could constitute the Israeli Government's policy in the near future in the form of competition for the country's limited territory.

The emergence of the emigration and settlement problem will constitute a real obstacle in the way of a permanent, just, and peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Middle East, which more than ever requires that the Security Council states—and especially the five permanent member states—quickly draw up a plan to lay the foundations for peace.

He also emphasized the illegality of settlement in the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem, stressing the need for international control over it. [passage omitted]

PNC Denounces Senate Resolution on Jerusalem

JN0204201090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1828 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] has strongly denounced the U.S. Senate resolution acknowledging the city of Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist entity. PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid-al-Sa'ih said in a message to the U.S. Congress that the resolution has no legal weight whatsoever and is out of line with the official U.S. position, which does not recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist entity. The resolution also conflicts with international laws on Jerusalem.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih added that the resolution ignores the rights of the Palestinian people and boosts the aggressive Zionist policy. It will also undermine current international efforts to bring about peace. Shaykh al-Sa'ih said the resolution will highly endanger world peace and security. He added that the PNC holds the U.S. Administration responsible for the consequences of this resolution and stresses that Jerusalem is an Arab city and will continue to be so, and is the capital of the independent Palestinian state.

'Infamous Resolution' Exposes U.S. Bias

JN0204210590 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1845 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Station commentary: "The Successive Roles in the U.S. Policy, Which Is Hostile Toward the Rights of Our People and Toward Peace"]

[Text] Brothers, masses of our great Palestinian people: The U.S. Senate adopted a resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as the unified capital of the Zionist entity. The resolution is wrong and in conflict with all international laws and with the resolutions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly. When the Senate adopted this infamous resolution, many people thought that a conflict would begin between the Senate and the Bush administration. They based their judgment on the fact that the U.S. Administration has a declared position concerning Jerusalem, a position announced by the U.S. President himself. [words indistinct] it is difficult for the U.S. Administration, which claims that it is exerting efforts to bring about peace, to deal (?fatal) blows to the peace process.

But we in the PLO had a different view. We know that the United States has always been, and is now, at the head of those who antagonize the rights of our people and nation, and who are hostile toward every effort to achieve genuine peace in the region. And now we see James Baker, in his recent statements on the right of Zionists to settle in Jerusalem, emphasizing this fact, which the PLO knows very well—namely, that the U.S. policy is biased, has no credibility whatsoever, and is hostile to every concept of peace.

The U.S. policy over the past 40 years has not changed: The United States has been maneuvering within the short distance between the centers of Zionist settlements and the centers of Zionist extremism; there is nothing more than this. And the United States has always been eager to put increasing pressure and make further tricks to appear as though it was seeking peace and standing halfway between the parties to the conflict. We would like to stress here that since the PLO announced its peace plan in the Middle of November 1988, it began the first step in pulling the mask of lies and trickery off the U.S. policy and exposing the real nature of this policy as biased toward our enemy, hostile to our people and nation, and harmful to the peace process.

What we would like to stress here is that this U.S. policy must be confronted by the Arab nation with the seriousness it deserves. The Americans cannot continue to play this hateful role of enemy and the judge at the same time. We would like to stress also that if the United States continues this policy, this sensitive part of the world will remain far removed from any tranquillity or stability, and the U.S. ally—the Zionist entity—will continue to live on a barrel of dynamite—and no one knows when it will explode.

PFLP Leader on Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue

JN3003125290 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], told REUTER in Damascus that the Palestinians will foil attempts to hold an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo if the PLO is prevented from choosing the members of the Palestinian delegation to the talks.

A statement by the PFLP's Secretary General George Habash issued in the Bethlehem area today said a Palestinian grouping will shortly be announced which will be made up of all factions that reject the PLO policy, and will include the PFLP in addition to other PLO-affiliated factions. The statement assailed PLO leader 'Arafat and his approach, and called on him either to resign or else stop this approach.

The Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB said that negotiations are now under way between the PFLP and Hamas movement to establish a new joint front, which will later be joined by certain Palestinian factions outside the PLO. AL-'ARAB noted the possibility that the Popular Front's activists might secede from the Unified National Command of the Intifadah and carry out independent activities because of their opposition to peace initiatives. The newspaper added that PFLP and Hamas representatives are currently drafting a political charter to formulate a joint plan of action.

Abu-Sharif Praises Thatcher's Stand on Jews

LD0204170590 Tunis TAP in French 1300 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis, 2 Apr (TAP)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, advisor to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, today positively appraised a statement by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher affirming the illegality of the installations of Jews in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem.

In a statement to the TAP agency, Abu-Sharif pointed out that the international community "should take concrete measures to end the violation of Palestinian human rights, which has been perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces in a flagrant and continuous way for 23 years."

Abu-Sharif also called on the UN Security Council "to halt the human tragedy and the procrastination by Israel, with a view to putting an end to the occupation."

Mrs. Thatcher, in a press statement published today, affirmed the illegality of the installation of Soviet Jews in the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem.

'Zionist' Planes Raid Palestinian Positions

JN0404170290 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1650 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Zionist enemy planes raided Palestinian positions in southern Lebanon at 1545 today. The planes fired four missiles from the sea [as heard]. As a result of the raid, one child was slightly wounded, and two houses were damaged.

Algeria

Sixteen Parties Register for June Elections

LD0504101290 Algiers APS in Arabic
0800 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Algiers, 5 Apr (APS)—Since registration of nominations for the 12 June elections began, the following data have been recorded in 46 provinces according to the information at the Interior Ministry on 3 April 1990: The submitted nomination documents are: 1.Organizations of a political nature:
The National Liberation Front in 44 provinces
The Social Democratic Party in 38 provinces
The Socialist Vanguard Party in 19 provinces
The Rally for Culture and Democracy in 24 provinces
The National Party for Solidarity and Development in 27 provinces
The Islamic Salvation Front in 43 provinces
The Algerian Renewal Party in 31 provinces
The Social Liberal Party in one province
The Union of Democratic Forces in two provinces
The Socialist Forces Front in two provinces
The Popular Unity Party in one province
The National Front for Innovation in one province
Man is Capital Party in two provinces
Socialist Labor Party in 35 provinces
Democratic Islamic Arab Unity Party in two provinces
The Movement for Democracy in Algeria in four provinces 2.Independent candidates:
2068 nomination documents were submitted for this group in preparation for their lists.

Algiers University Teachers and Workers Strike

LD0404200990 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1730 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Two days ago, teachers and workers at Algiers University decided to stop work. The teachers who leave the door open to dialogue seek, essentially through this action to bring attention back to the university teachers and workers, thus assuring them essential conditions, guaranteeing continuous training, and assuring satisfaction of demands related to accommodation, promotion, status, salaries, and a review of the categorization system. This was stated in a communique issued by teachers and workers of departments of Algiers University.

Egypt

Soviet Says Jewish Emigrants Transit Egypt

JN0404204890 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
3 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

[By 'Isam al-Din Rif'at in Alexandria]

[Text] (Leonid Titov), the Soviet consul general in Alexandria, has confirmed that Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel have crossed by land through Egyptian territory after obtaining a visa from the Egyptian Embassy in Moscow. He also said that the Soviet Union does not dictate the emigrants' itinerary.

In statements to AL-WAFD, the consul general said that the Soviet administration had recalled Soviet ambassadors in Arab countries and briefed them on various aspects of the problem. The Soviet official announced that the Soviet Government is currently studying many proposals concerning the method of settling Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories. He added that the Soviet Union respects the rights of the Palestinians and the feelings of the Arab countries on this issue. He also reaffirmed the Soviet Government's commitment to respect the right of Soviet citizens, guaranteed by the Constitution and human rights charters, to choose the country in which they wish to live.

The Soviet official announced that the number of Soviets who emigrated to Israel in the past 10 years does not exceed 40,000 Jews. He added that the number of Jews in the Soviet Union does not exceed 2.5 million. The consul general denied that there would be a meeting in June between Gorbachev and Bush to discuss the secret agreement on Soviet Jewish emigration. He explained the indirect Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel by relating it to the break in diplomatic relations between the two countries that has existed since 1967 to the present day. He also related it to the lack of Soviet national airline flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv.

'Abd-al-Majid on Peace; 'Threats' to Jordan, Iraq

NC0404152290 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1415 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Amman, 4 Apr (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that the Middle East peace efforts are currently halted because of the Israeli Government crisis. He hopes that this crisis will end so that the peace process may be reactivated.

In an interview with the MENA correspondent in Amman, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt is ready to proceed with the peace process and added: We hope that the Israeli officials realize the importance of peace for themselves and the entire region.

On the Israeli threats to Jordan, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister declared: We cannot accept any Israeli threat to Jordan or any other Arab country. He asserted that such threats do not help the peace process, which is regarded as essential for the region.

On the efforts to achieve an Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt seeks to achieve understanding and rapprochement among all Arab states, particularly between Syria and Iraq because that serves the interests of the two peoples and the Arab nation.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that efforts are being made in this connection, noting that these efforts deserve encouragement and support because it is in the interest of Arabs to stand together to confront challenges.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid denied that Egypt called for holding an Arab summit conference in Cairo. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said the Iraqi issue and its developments will be discussed during the meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] foreign ministers. He added: We want to make it clear that Iraq is not making threats but is announcing what its position will be if it is attacked and finds itself in a situation of self-defense.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that Iraq wants peace and noted that it is one of the signatories to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

He also said that the ACC foreign ministers will discuss the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied territories as one of the major issues facing the Arab world.

IMF Official Sees Agreement Based on Reforms

JN0404214290 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Apr 90 p 1

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will chair a cabinet session today to review the country's economic situation, production issues, and the results of recent talks with a World Bank delegation in Cairo. [passage omitted]

In addition, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shakur Sha'lan, executive director of the IMF for the Middle East, has stated that the IMF is currently studying a report by the World Bank on the latter's talks in Cairo in February, and that an IMF delegation will visit Cairo in April to complete the talks and sign a new memorandum of understanding in light of the economic reform program Egypt has submitted.

In an interview with Najla' Dhikri, AL-AHRAM correspondent in Abu Dhabi, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shakur Sha'lan said that an agreement in principle was reached with the World Bank on the economic reform measures Egypt will adopt. These measures are based on supporting those in the low-income bracket, freeing the public sector from all restrictions to enable it to improve production, and encouraging the private sector to participate in the development process as much as possible.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shakur Sha'lan emphasized the importance of popular participation in understanding the requirements of the economic reforms and the implementation of the economic reform programs. He said that the delay in reaching an agreement between Egypt and the IMF does not mean that the negotiations have foundered. Any dialogue must deal with both agreement and differences. The continuation of the talks means that all parties wish to reach agreement on a realistic reform program that could be implemented during a suitable period of time while taking into consideration the interests of the poor classes and the need to set up a fund to support them. He added: All this will take place on the condition that creditor countries believe in the program.

He said that final agreement with the World Bank is conditional on reaching an agreement with the IMF first. He said that the latest IMF team discussed general policies and the details of the Egyptian program and how to implement them within a specific period of time.

Correction to Iraq To Pay Worker's Claims

JN3003174490

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Iraq To Pay Worker's Claims 'Within Six Months'", published in the 2 April Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 10.

Column two, paragraph two, last sentence, make read:...money orders worth $750 thousand were disbursed within....(correcting figure)

Libya

Libyan Statement Supports Iraq's Saddam Husayn

LD0404174990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Apr (JANA)—In reply to a question by JANA regarding the media campaign led by the Zionist enemy and colonialist circles which support it—especially the United States—against brotherly Iraq, particularly regarding the statement made by President Saddam Husayn of Iraq in which he stressed that Iraq would reply sternly if the Zionist enemy perpetrates another aggression against its installation, a responsible source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation said:

The objective of this hostile campaign is crystal clear. It is within the framework of the attitude adopted by imperialist forces vis-a-vis the Arab nation, represented in preventing this nation from achieving any scientific or technical progress. Otherwise, what is the point of making such a clamor only when the matter concerns an Arab country while the aforementioned circles keep absolutely quiet regarding the Zionist entity's possession of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction and its refusal to sign international agreements on banning the proliferation and use of these weapons.

While condemning this tendentious campaign, the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation reaffirms that the Great Jamahiriyah stands by brotherly Iraq and calls on the Arab nation to adopt a firm united stand vis-a-vis the forces which support the enemy and attempt to subjugate Arabs under their control and domination, and to prevent them from making any progress.

JANA Editor Assails U.S. Stand on Iraq

LD0404184890 Tripoli JANA in English 1642 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 4, Jamahiriyah news agency—The United States congratulated the Zionist enemy for launching a spy satellite in the Arab nation's sky yesterday.

The spokeswoman for the U.S. State Department said: We welcome the progress resulting form the space program, of what she called "Israel".

On the other hand the U.S. President Bush condemned confirmations of the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in which he said that Iraq would reply with all its force to any aggression carried out by the Zionist enemy against Iraq.

The U.S. President said that the statements of the Iraqi president makes us feel sorry and they are irresponsible, because of the threats they contained to Israel.

JANA's Arab affairs editor commented on the U.S. stance by saying:

There is nothing that leaves any doubt in front of us about the hostile U.S. drives against the Arab existence. It has been confirmed to us with practical evidence for a long time. The hostility of America towards us and its alliance with the Zionist terrorists who are usurping Arab Palestine aiming at expanding the area of their occupation to other Arab parts through the use of advanced weapons provided by America to them in the form of grants and bounties without any conditions attach to them except their use against the Arab nation.

The editor added that such U.S. duplicity reveals endless bias and siding which urges all Arabs to take a serious and firm stance towards this American disregard for this nation and make them realize decisively that the U.S. is in fact a hostile sight in the Arab-Zionist conflict and cannot be expected to do more than its previous hostile stances.

The editor questioned the extent to which the U.S. disregard faces the world public opinion because they condemned the statements of the Iraqi president just for confirming to reply to the aggresssion and congratulates at the same time the Zionists for launching a spy satellite, which constitutes a serious breach of the Arab nation's security fully.

The editor reminded about the continued U.S. campaigns against Great Jamahiriya and Washington's constant keenness and insistence to stand in the face of every Arab scientific progress that could push the Arab nation steps forward at a time it provides the Zionist enemy with all weapons of destruction to consolidate its occupation of our Arab land.

Jana's Arab affairs editor concluded his commentary by saying:

"The Arab nation with its immortal cultural glory and humane history known today its path and use as a guide the light of its past to make from it and its experiences its future by the unity of its sons and their standing one hand in confronting all attempts of domination and containment which the U.S. imperialism is trying to impose upon them by all means." [sentence as received]

Soviet Ambassador Reiterates Moscow's Support

LD0404140390 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The Soviet Union has reiterated its support for and solidarity with the Libyan Arab people who bravely stand up to all the American terrorist threats and provocations. Pogos Akopov, the Soviet Ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, told JANA that if the Great Jamahiriyah is exposed to any danger or any campaign of aggression from its enemies, the Soviet Union will stand by the people of the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Soviet ambassador also expressed his government's satisfaction with the pioneering role played by the brother leader of the revolution and the people of the Great Jamahiriyah to consolidate peace and stability in the world. He then hailed the unionist steps made by the Arab Maghreb describing them as a step forward on the road to the unification of the Arab nation. The Soviet ambassador also stated that the principles put forward by the program of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party correspond to a large extent to the radical solutions included in the Third Universal Theory [al-Qadhdhafi's Green Book], indicating that this program rejected all forms and methods of economic management which exclude man's participation in the production.

Mauritania

Government Confirms Solidarity With Iraq

LD0404215990 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met on 4 April 1990 under Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state. [passage omitted]

The minister of foreign affairs and cooperation presented a report on the international situation and referred in particular to the escalating media campaign against the sister Republic of Iraq. In this context, the Council of Ministers was eager to confirm its solidarity with this sister country, whose great sacrifices have enabled the whole region to live today in an atmosphere of peace and stability. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Foreign Ministry Denies Intervention in Chad

EA0404215290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 4 April (SUNA)—Sudan has strongly denied what has been said in a statement by the Republic of Chad concerning the role of Sudan in the fighting which took place recently in eastern Chad.

In a statement issued today, the Foreign Ministry reiterated its full concern for the security, stability, and integrity of Chadian territory. It also reiterated its interest in, and commitment to, developing fraternal and eternal relations between the two fraternal peoples. It will spare no efforts for cooperation in finding a peaceful and durable settlement of the Chadian conflict.

The statement pointed out that the Sudanese Government, since the launching of the National Salvation Revolution, had followed a policy based on truthfulness and full understanding for the course of events in neighboring Chad. It has never ceased to pursue a policy based on concern for, and a commitment to, developing fraternal bilateral relations, and to working together to solve the difficulties which had lately obstructed relations between them.

The statement said that the National Salvation Government had made several initiatives, including high-level contacts, through Sudanese Government delegations visiting Chad. Moreover, cultural, youth, and sports relations had progressed remarkably in the past.

The statement said that at a time when the Sudanese Government was making continuous efforts to tackle the causes of tension inside Chad, to achieve stability in that country, and promote relations with Chad for the good of the two countries, it was surprised by a statement which cast doubt on the stand adopted by the Sudanese Government [word indistinct] and the policy of good neighborliness—which it had adopted as its policy in relations with the neighboring countries and particularly toward events in Chad.

Al-Bashir Meets Leaders of Information Organs

EA0404225090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] This morning Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and prime minister met at the secretariat general of the Council of Ministers with leaders of the information organs in the presence of Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the RCC and chairman of the information and orientation committee. Lieutenant Colonel al-Tayyib Ibrahim, minister of presidential affairs; Yusuf Sa'id, political adviser to the chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Mr. al-Sadiq Bakhit, information adviser to the prime minister.

In his speech to the leaders of information organs, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir explained that the meeting came within the framework of exchanging views and consultation. His excellency reviewed the importance of the role of information at this time. He asked the leaders of the information and press organs to follow up and implement the recommendations of the dialogue conference on information issues. The RCC chairman also stressed the need for information and press organs to concentrate on a number of important issues—above all, national unity, security, peace, stability—to double production, to expose corruption, to wage a war against the black market, and to coordinate with the service development program to halt the deterioration of the civil service.

Regarding foreign policy, his excellency noted the improvement in Sudan's foreign relations with neighboring African and Arab states, which had been crowned by the revolution's unionist orientations, the declaration of integration with the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and the endeavor to extend the process of unity to include other Arab states.

On his African tours, his excellency declared that they came within the framework of Sudan declaring this year the year of Africa, and Sudan's efforts to consolidate its African relations, which reflected the effective contribution of neighboring states in the efforts to establish peace and end the conflict in southern Sudan. At the end of the meeting, the chairman stressed the importance of these meetings.

Minister Says Libya To Provide Agricultural Aid

EA0404150590 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 4 April (SUNA)—Libya has agreed to finance the needed agricultural inputs for the additional areas scheduled to be cultivated in the irrigated agricultural section next season, minister of irrigation Dr. Ya'qub Abu-Shurah announced to the daily AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH of today.

This financial will has great affection on the implementation of the plan of increasing the cultivated areas, particularly those areas which will be cultivated with wheat, Abu-Shurah said.

On the other hand, Abu-Shurah said that the Sudan and the World Bank are studying currently several projects, the most important of it is the project for rehabilitation of irrigation at the various irrigated projects in the country.

Correction to BBC Views Islamic Front

AB0504161790

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "BBC Views Influence of National Islamic Front," published in the 3 April Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 26:

Column two, last paragraph, last sentence, make read:...lend serious plausibility to this thesis. [end recording] (providing dropped punctuation and editor's notation)

Tunisia

Iraqi-Tunisian Talks Begin, Speeches Delivered

JN0404213490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Tunis, 4 Apr (INA)—Official Iraqi-Tunisian talks under Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister of Iraq, and Tunisian Prime Minister Dr. Hamed Karoui, began here today.

In their speeches during the first round of talks, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan and Hamed Karoui expressed satisfaction with the advanced level of relations that prompts officials of the two countries to devise more effective formulas to fulfill the aspirations of the two brotherly people.

The two sides noted the existence of the means and the sincere desire to develop political, economic, trade, media, and cultural relations between the two countries.

Mr. Ramadan said in his speech that Iraq, which fought for 8 years in defense of its dignity and sovereignty and has foiled the conspiratorial schemes, will continue to defend the edifice of science, and that hostile and suspicious campaigns will only render Iraq a more innovative and creative country in all fields of science and technology.

Mr. Ramadan said that Palestinian human rights are being violated in the occupied Arab territories by the Zionist occupation authorities, while the superpowers, led by the United States and Britain, are unmoved by these blatant violations.

The first deputy prime minister expressed Iraq's pride in Tunisia's policies concerning Iraq during the war fought by Iraq in defense of the honor and dignity of the Arab nation.

Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui declared in his speech that the Iraq's victory in defense of the eastern gate of the Arab homeland, and Iraq's advanced technological achievements represent a victory for the entire Arab nation.

He reiterated the Tunisian Government's condemnation and denunciation of the unjust campaign waged by the United States, Britain, and the Zionist entity against Iraq because Iraq had exercised its natural right to defend its security and sovereignty. He also expressed the solidarity of the Tunisian Government and people with the Iraqi people in their efforts to maintain scientific and technological progress. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Destroying Chemical Weapons

JN0504060790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has stated in Amman that Iraq is ready to destroy its chemical weapons, providing Israel does the same and signs the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Tariq 'Aziz said this, as an Egyptian diplomat told the ASSOCIATED PRESS, at the closed meetings the Arab Cooperation Council's foreign ministers started in Amman yesterday to discuss the campaign of threats against Iraq. A source close to the conferees said Iraq is pushing for the issuance of a strongly worded final statement on the Israeli and Western threats against the Arab countries, particularly Iraq.

Ambassador Comments on President's 'Warnings'

NC0404145690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Iraqi Ambassador to Egypt Nabil Najm has asserted Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's recent warnings must be understood to mean Iraq will retaliate violently and forcefully against anyone who considers attacking it.

In a statement to MENA, the Iraqi ambassador said a great deal of information indicates Israel might launch an aggression against Iraq, and that the current tendentious campaign, designed to distort Iraq's reputation, is a prelude to this aggression. He noted some Israeli leaders are making official statements to this effect, and remarked Iraq is continuously vigilant.

Ambassador Najm said Iraq is committed not to use chemical weapons.

He declared: We had weapons we did not use during our war with Iran. Manufacturing chemical weapons so far has not been banned. Only their use is prohibited. In self-defense against nuclear weapons or some other very sophisticated weapon that the enemy might use against us, however, Iraq might have no choice but to use chemical weapons.

Ambassador Nabil Najm added that the Western campaign against Iraq is designed to act as a cover for an aggression against Iraq. Such aggression would aim to limit Iraq's scientific and industrial capabilities and to cause severe damage to the Arab nation's abilities so Israel would continue to have the upper hand in the region.

The Iraqi ambassador said the Arab stand expressed by the Arab League supports and bolsters Iraq's position. He noted any additional Arab action would be welcome and very useful so our enemies and the major powers that support Israel would feel that the Arabs, unlike in former times, now are in a good position.

The Iraqi ambassador explained that the British-U.S. campaign is not new but began with the first indications of the Iraqi victory against Iran. He noted that at that time, numerous international parties began planning to abort the Iraqi victory.

Paris Envoy Warns of 'Zionist' Military Action

JN0404151690 Baghdad INA in English 1440 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Paris, Apr 4, INA—Iraq's Ambassador in Paris 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi has affirmed that the Zionist entity is suffering an inner crisis, failure in dealing with the Palestinin uprising, and international isolation.

Interviewed by the French T.V. Programme 5 last night, the Iraqi diplomat said that these were the reasons behind the Zionist entity's attempt to fabricate a surprise aggression on the Arab countries, especially Iraq, through a hostile military operation targeting Iraq's sophisticated scientific and technological base.

Al-Hashimi pointed out that the Zionist entity's launch of a satellite confirmed Iraq's conclusions and analysis that the Israelis had been, since a long time, preparing for an aggressive attack on Iraq. This satellite is part of the Zionist expansionist aggressive programme implemented against the Arabs, the France-based Iraqi ambassador stressed.

Tunisia Supports Iraq Against Western 'Campaigns'

JN0404175290 Baghdad INA in English 1620 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis, Apr 4, INA—Tunisia has expressed total solidarity with Iraq in countering American, British, and Zionist hostile campaigns aimed at its independence and sovereignty.

In statements to INA correspondent in Tunis today, Tunisia's Premier Hamed Karoui affirmed that his country was so distressed by the current propaganda drive launched against Iraq, the state working for peace and seeking peaceful solutions to all international problems.

He described as so distinguished his country's ties with Iraq.

RCC Member Heads Delegation to Tunis

JN0404100490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, left for Tunis today at the head of a delegation on an official visit to Tunisia.

In a statement to INA, the first deputy prime minister said he is carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, dealing with Iraq's pride in the advanced

level of bilateral relations, its desire for serious and fruitful action to expand and promote them in all fields, and to exploit all the resources and potentials available in the two fraternal countries.

The first deputy prime minister pointed out the visit is important because it comes after the summit meeting between President Saddam Husayn and his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in Baghdad in December, and the positive results and resolutions of this summit, based on which, new and versatile agreements will be reached during this visit in harmony with the serious mutual desire of the leaderships of the two fraternal countries.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that during this visit the Iraqi-Tunisian joint committee for cooperation will conduct its seventh session of meetings. He said the itinerary of the visit is comprehensive and flexible, both in the field of promoting trade and economic and technical cooperation, and in tourism, culture, information, and services. He said he hoped the visit will produce distinguished results that will make an exemplary contribution to the march of the Iraqi-Tunisian relations.

The first deputy prime minister is accompanied by a delegation comprising Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade, acting finance minister, and head of the Iraqi side to the Iraqi-Tunisian joint committee, the under secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, and a number of officials from the concerned ministries.

He was seen off at the airport by Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister, a number of ministers, and the Tunisian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Arrives, Views 'Campaign'

JN0404154290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Tunis, 4 Apr (INA)—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member, first deputy prime minister, and head of the Iraqi delegation to the joint Iraqi-Tunisian committee meetings beginning later today, arrived here today. [passage omitted]

Mr. Ramadan asserted Iraq's capability to counter the hostile U.S., Zionist, and British campaigns through consolidating the spirit of effective Arab solidarity. He said the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council will meet today in Amman. Tomorrow, Ramadan added, an emergency session of the Arab League will be conducted. All Arabs are expected to voice their solid support for Iraq against these hostile campaigns.

Ramadan said the fabricated hostile campaign began some time ago with certain incidents, culminating in the Zionist spy Bazoft case, and continued with Iraq's importation of electric capacitors, which are used for industrial, engineering, and scientific purposes. [passage omitted]

Hungarian Finance Minister Leaves Baghdad 4 Apr

JN0404215890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—Hungarian Finance Minister Mr. Laszlo Bekesi and his delegation left Baghdad today, ending a four-day visit to Iraq.

The Hungarian minister told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY his talks with Iraqi officials were positive and fruitful for both sides. He added financial and trade cooperation minutes were signed to develop financial relations, bolster economic and trade cooperation, and broaden their future scope in the service of the two friendly countries.

Peres Notifies Herzog of New Government

TA0404161490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The president's office Some 15 minutes ago published an official announcement that reads: Shim'on Peres has notified the president he has managed to form a government according to clause 6 of The Basic Law: The government. Knesset Member Peres also appealed to the Knesset speaker with a request to convene the Knesset for a vote of confidence.

Further on New Government

TA0404164390 Jersualem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky and his deputy, Knesset Member [MK] Dan Tikhon, currently are discussing MK Peres' appeal to convene the Knesset.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports the Alignment Knesset faction secretary arrived at the president's residence some 30 minutes ago and handed the president two letters: one addressed to him and the other addressed to the Knesset speaker. It has been reported both letters are formally phrased.

Knesset Speaker Shilansky was scheduled to return this afternoon from a trip to Spain. Before he left he said when a request reaches him, he will deal objectively with it. As was said before, the Knesset speaker and his deputy currently are discussing the request.

There is no information as yet concerning the developments that led to the shift and the address to the Knesset speaker. Information obtained so far indicates an agreement between Shim'on Peres and MK Avraham Sharir has been signed, or that there is some other agreement with the Moda'i group. In any event, the 60-seat barrier that so far has prevented the Labor Party chairman from presenting a government has been broken. There is no certainty, however, that all of the designated partners in the government are in agreement.

Speaking for the three left-wing parties [Citizens Rights Movement, the United Workers Party, and Shinuy], MK Shulamit Aloni said this afternoon these parties are not yet in Peres' pocket, and there still are unresolved issues.

On the other hand, Minister Sciacki said the NRP [National Religious Party] will not oppose joining a narrow-based government. He stressed there is no resolutuion stipulating the NRP must support only a broad-based government.

Peres Holds News Conference

TA0404171290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1627 GMT 4 Apr 90

[News conference by Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres outside his Tel Aviv office—live]

[Text] [Peres] Good evening. About an hour ago, I telephoned President Herzog to advise him I have succeeded in forming a government, and that I intend to request the Knesset speaker to convene the Knesset as soon as possible. After that, the Labor Party Knesset faction chairman and I submitted a written request to the Knesset speaker, asking him to convene a session.

In doing the above, I bore in mind the president's appeal to take action toward forming a government as soon as possible, as well as the situation in the country. If we fail to form a government on the eve of Passover, Israel will remain without a functioning administration for many weeks. The Defense Ministry and the Treasury will remain unmanned; immigrants continue pouring in and need someone to guide them; and there are severe economic and security problems that must be taken care of.

Since in this situation speed was of essence, we acted as well as we could. At the same time, I would like to add our negotiations with the parties have not concluded. I hope there is a chance to expand the future coalition. Until we conclude all negotiations, I will divulge no further details.

[Jerusalem Radio correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch] Knesset Member Peres, you must have made up a list of potential coalition partners before approaching the president—which means you have 60 MK's or more. Could you perhaps dispel the fog by telling the public what kind of government it is about to have?

[Peres] For the time being, any government must be based on a majority. I need not submit any list to the president; I have time to do so before the Knesset is convened. I know who my partners are, and we now will distribute portfolios. A lot of work still awaits us, because not everything has been done.

[IDF Radio correspondent Yaron Deqel] Could you reveal the identity of the MK who crossed the lines from the Likud to the Labor Party?

[Peres] Who told you only one crossed? I said we have a majority, and I will say nothing further.

[Yehimovitch] Do you have more than 60 MK's?

[Peres] I will say nothing and will add no details. As I said: I hope to expand support for the government. I will not conduct negotiations through the media, although I have nothing against them; on the contrary, I have a lot of respect for them. There are, however, things which-....[changes thought] As far as I am concerned, I will announce only things that have been finalized.

[In a similar report by Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1630 GMT on 4 April, Peres says he hopes "to present the government to the Knesset on Sunday," 8 April.]

Knesset Session Considered

TA0404171990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky has announced he will meet with the attorney general tomorrow morning and will study the latter's ruling stating the Knesset may be convened during a recess. Shilansky added that after that, he will announce the date on which the Knesset will be convened, as requested by Shim'on Peres.

Hayim Ramon, chairman of the Labor Party Knesset faction, asked Mr. Shilansky to convene the Knesset on Sunday. Shilansky said he is inclined to convene the Knesset as soon as possible, although he will make a final decision as a judge acting upon his conscience and according to the rules of justice.

Shamir's Bureau 'Angry'

TA0404173990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 4 Apr 90

[By party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz from the Finance Ministry—live]

[Excerpt] It is possible Shim'on Peres is counting on the left-wing parties not to vote against him when the Knesset vote of confidence is conducted. As we have reported earlier today, Peres suggested they support, not join it.

The prime minister's bureau is very angry. It claims Shim'on Peres does not have 61 Knesset members on his side. As for the direct question whether they know anything about the situation with MK Avraham Sharir, they were not willing to deny the report that has been on the air all through the evening saying Sharir is the one who aided the Alignment. They were unwilling either to confirm or deny this report. They still believe there is a possibility to change things. As things stand now, it seems Sharir is the man thanks to whom Shim'on Peres managed to obtain 61 Knesset votes at this stage. [passage omitted]

Party Heads, Others React

TA0404174690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] We have heard the reactions of heads of the small factions which are supposed to support Shim'on Peres' government. They expressed different reservations regarding the statement that the Labor Party enjoys a majority.

Knesset Members Aloni, Tzaban, Rubinstein, and Tubi pointed out the Alignment has not negotiated with them as yet, and that their unconditional support must not be taken for granted.

The representatives of CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], MAPAM [United Workers Party], and Shinuy will meet tomorrow morning to coordinate positions, after which they will conduct a meeting with Shim'on Peres and his negotiating team.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that although the Alignment has not divulged the identity of the MK who enabled Shim'on Peres to announce a majority, the general assumption is Avraham Sharir from the Movement for the Advancement of Zionist Ideology is the MK in question. Sharir is not to be found at home, and his whereabouts are unknown.

Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i was scheduled to appear on tonight's Moqed television program, but it has been learned he will not do so, and thus will not be announcing his personal decision regarding what party he will join.

Minister Moshe Shahal has explained the mystery maintained by the Alignment around the supporters of Peres' government by saying the Likud ministers have been threatening and pressuring anyone trying to join that government. The Alignment has a majority, Shahal said, and efforts to expand it are being pursued even at this time. The Alignment, to avert pressures by Likud ministers, is not revealing the names of the persons with whom negotiations are being conducted.

Minister Arye Der'i has said since a new situation has arisen, he and his colleagues will approach the Council of Torah Scholars for instructions.

Moda'i Denies Agreement Signed

TA0404181290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i now is convening with Prime Minister Shamir. Speaking with our correspondent Yo'el Nir, Moda'i denied having signed an agreement with the Alignment. He said he will sign an agreement with the Likud if he thinks the agreement is appropriate. It is unclear whether Moda'i will appear on television tonight, as had been scheduled. [passage omitted]

Peres on Government's Goals

TA0404190790 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Hanan 'Azran at Peres' office in Tel Aviv; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Azran] Mr. Peres, the government you are setting up apparently made many commitments, at least to Agudat Yisra'el and other ultraorthodox parties. How will this affect the shape of this government?

[Peres] I know of no unreasonable commitments.

['Azran] What are they?

[Peres] I will tell you exactly. There are two basic assumptions: One, the status quo on religious issues will be maintained, at least on the legislative aspect; we will pass no religious nor antireligious laws during the term of this government. The second issue is the continuation of the peace process. These are the two main guidelines. I believe they are reasonable.

['Azran] Mr. Peres, it is known there are dovish and hawkish circles in your party. Did you make a commitment that in the process of portfolio distribution, the balance between the two will be maintained?

[Peres] My duty is to form the best, the most representative government possible under the current conditions.

['Azran] Will all Labor Party currents be represented in it?

[Peres] I do not know how many currents there are. I do not know whether they can all be represented. I believe this will be a good government which, first and foremost, will be capable of confronting the problems we face. My main concern is....[changes thought]. Look, I know that many say—and let us be frank about it—that our majority is not big enough, that it will be afraid to make resolutions. To that I say: There will be no fear of making resolutions, becaue I believe the resolutions will be the right ones. It is the fear that is wrong. If we make the correct resolutions, the results will follow suit.

Let us take a simple example: If we reestalish diplomatic relations with the USSR and direct flights from there begin, we will have earned our bread. If the intifadah wanes, if we receive massive aid for immigration absorption....[changes thought] Look, last month 8,400 immigrants arrived in Israel, 7,300 from the USSR, and 1,100 from other places. This is our main concern. Where can we get the funds for that? We must fight unemployment. We have to find jobs and solve housing problems. I cannot view the government solely from the point of view of parties or administration. The real issues facing us have no bureaucratic or partisan character. They have a national character and concern our existence.

['Azran] Finally, sir, will you invite the Likud to join this government?

[Peres] This is what I started with. I started by calling Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. I suggested that he enter negotiations. He gave me a negative reply on the spot. But if I believe the Likud has changed somewhat, I will be glad to invite it once again. There is no issue of prestige. Quite the contrary: Whoever is willing to contribute to a positive policy for the State of Israel is welcome to join this government.

['Azran] Thank you and good evening.

[Peres] Good evening.

Moda'i Faction Staying in Likud

TA0404203090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir tonight conducted a lengthy meeting with Yitzhaq Moda'i, after which Minister Moda'i and several Likud elements announced that an agreement had been achieved, and Moda'i's group will remain part of the Likud bloc's 60 Knesset members. Minister Moda'i now is on his way to Avraham Sharir's residence to persuade him to join the agreement.

Minister Moshe Qatzav told our political correspondent Arye Golan that the agreement with Moda'i and his group will be finalized tomorrow morning.

MK Yosi Goldberg, one of the five breakaway Liberals, has said the negotiations will continue through the night. According to him, what he and his colleagues wish to receive from the Likud is not money, but various guarantees for the promises they have been given. He added that tonight Moda'i's aides talked with Avraham Sharir, and the question of whether Sharir is an inseparable part of the group of five was not raised at all, because the answer is obvious.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that according to the agreement being formulated between the Likud and the five, Moda'i's group will receive a $2.5 million bond. In addition, five seats on the Likud's list for the next Knesset elections will be kept for the Moda'i faction; the faction also will be granted two portfolios, including one senior ministry.

Our correspondent adds that at present, Moda'i's aides are attempting to persuade Avraham Sharir to endorse this arrangement.

In reaction, Knesset Member Ya'aqov Tzur said the above reports have caused no concern in the Alignment. He is confident Shim'on Peres would not have advised the president of achieving success in government formation had the situation not allowed him to do so.

Left Wing Has Reservations

TA0504061590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] It stopped being a rumor around 1930 last night. An official announcment was delivered by the prime minister-designate. Whether it is due to a mysterious, hidden defector or not, the numbers—from 61 Knesset members and upwards—are supposed to also include the MK's from the left-wing parties. A feeling of oppression, severe problems, and dire straits were some of the expressions used by MK Shulamit Aloni from the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], who added she should not say yes to anything right now.

[Begin Aloni recording] I think MK Peres and his colleagues have not really understood we are parties that

represent a public that has voted for us, that we have certain positions, and we neither are amoebas, nor do we belong in the family of reptiles. We have backbones. [end recording]

MK Amnon Rubinstein, head of the Shinuy Knesset faction, reiterated his proposed bill for separate elections for the premiership and spoke of a forgetten concept, such as conscience.

[Begin Rubinstein recording] We told Shim'on Peres we face a difficult problem in voting for a government that is based on the vote of a man who switched parties and crossed lines today. I view this entire matter of basing oneself on defectors as something that simply destroys Israeli democracy and corrupts moral standards. This is something that I, on a personal, conscientious basis, find hard to live with. [end recording]

In MAPAM [United Workers Party], MK Ya'ir Tzaban expressed his agreement in principle, but chose his words very carefully and voiced his reservations over the way the government was formed.

[Begin Tzaban recording] Actually, the choice we face is between external support—that is, enabling the establishment of the government with our votes—or joining it. In either case, we still have a lot to discuss with the Labor Party, and we will probably start hammering things out tomorrow [5 April]. [end recording]

MK Peres' statement that he is guaranteed the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality votes is not true, said MK Tawfiq Tubi.

[Begin Tubi recording] The position of our faction toward the government Mr. Peres is trying to form will be decided only during negotiations and after an agreement on the path, commitments, and actions of such a government. [end recording]

'Positive' Reply Anticipated

TA0504065790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Shalom Qital—live]

[Excerpts] [Qital] Good morning, Mr. Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] And a very good morning to you.

[Qital] Did you sleep well last night?

[Peres] Yes.

[Qital] Is everything wrapped up? Do you have a government? Is it final?

[Peres] Yes.

[Qital] We, of course, are still interested in the identity of the 61st member.

[Peres] I do not think this is the main issue....

[Qital, interrupting] I am not saying it is the main issue; I am only saying it is interesting.

[Peres] Interesting? Well, you have the right to be curious. Your curiousity will be satisfied when I introduce my government in the Knesset.

[Qital] One general question, without getting into names, because last night I understood you have no intention of naming names: Are there more than 61?

[Peres] This will all become clear on 8 April, if the Knesset is indeed convened on Sunday. Everyone's curiosity will be satisfied.

[Qital] Let us talk about things I am certain you can comment on, totally open issues. You just heard the voices [of the left-wing party leaders]....

[Peres, interrupting] I would like to tell you I heard them, and I am amazed. For instance, is delaying peace or holding back the peace process a wonderful act of conscience? Is letting the intifadah continue so terrific?

[Qital] Are you addressing the left-wing Knesset members?

[Peres] Yes. I do not understand all their talk. Is one's conscience a selective thing? Is conscience just an administrative matter? I also do not quite understand all this talk about defectors. Every party should examine itself and see whether it has not participated in a government in which members crossed lines or whether it itself does not include members who crossed party lines. We should stop all pretenses regarding these matters, as though things are so simple. I would like to talk about what a party member crossing lines means. I can say with certainty one of the reasons Agudat Yisra'el switched its support from the Likud to the Alignment—which can of course be called a defection—was because the Likud did not keep any promises. Is breach of promise an acceptable conscientious issue? Does drawing conclusions as a result of a breach of promise constitute a betrayal of one's conscience? I do not understand all these terms, and we will certainly conduct a profound debate on this. I think we acted in a manner befitting our conscience. No one paid or received any monies; everyone acted out of deep inner convictions, obviously for varied reasons. There are those who believe that a breach of promise is more reprehensible than crossing party lines. [passage omitted]

[Qital] Do you intend to respond to Baker as soon as possible if your government is endorsed by the Knesset?

[Peres] Without any question, without any question. Look, even in the outgoing government, had the Likud given its members freedom of vote, there would have been a majority for a positive response to Baker. There was a minority that drowned out the majority. There is no reason for any member to change his mind. We are stating that the government will be based on the departing government's peace initiative, but will enable

the continuation of the process. What brought the government down? Not what was written in the initiative, but what was not. Mr. Shamir wanted us to commit ourselves on an issue that had not even come up for discussion; for example, how the Palestinian citizens of Jordan—those that live in Jerusalem—would vote regarding autonomy. It was not even on the agenda. This was an artificial attempt to disrupt the peace process. As far as conscience is concerned, no one has to change anything, because whoever was in the coalition and in the government supported and was committed to the peace process. [passage omitted]

'Stench' of Maneuverings Viewed

TA0504144490 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Apr 90 p A1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Patchwork Government"]

[Text] It would be hard to believe the Labor Party leader alerted the president and the Knesset speaker for nothing. Shim'on Peres, furthermore, understands very well that Yitzhaq Rabin's temper tantrum—when doubts arose regarding the chances of toppling Shamir's government in the no-confidence vote—would be like the singing of an angelic choir compared to his reaction to a "fiasco" in the vote of confidence in Peres' government.

Rabin will not be the only one. Many good and honest people in both the Labor Party and the leftist camp in general do not accept the catchy slogans of "better a defector than Arik" [pun on 'ariq, meaning defector, and Arik, Ari'el Sharon's nickname] and "better Sharir than Shamir." Only the return to power after 13 years—for some—and the hope that a political settlement could be promoted—for others—could cover up the gaping wounds. Peres also knows that from the moment he informed the president he had completed the job, he reached the point of no return and cannot go back. There is a good chance, moreover, that his fellow party members will change the horses en route to the president for the sake of seeking an extension to what they themselves term "the sordid affair."

Ever since the Labor Party launched its contacts toward forming the government, the Knesset members from the four religious parties have been watching each other's steps very carefully. Two days ago, when word got out Peres was about to announce he had managed to set up a government, the religious went into high alert. According to plan, Torah Observing Sephardim, the National Religious Party, and Degel Hatora now are expected to launch an assault for the portfolios and benefits in a bid to inherit Agudat Yisra'el. The Alignment hopes to sign a number of coalition agreements by Passover eve [9 April]. A person closely involved in the negotiations phrased it thus: "The door will collapse under the pressure from the alms seekers."

After it is set up, if it is set up at all, Peres' government will rely on a hard core of only 50 MK's from the Alignment and the leftist Zionist parties. The others are religious members whose leanings and followers favor the Likud, or members of the non-Zionist left who advocate negotiations with the PLO on a Palestinian state.

In the next few days, Peres will ask the nation to ignore the stench and wish him well upon embarking on the journey to a "historic opportunity" to bring about a settlement with the Palestinians and the Arab countries. The new government's political and economic successes, along with the implementation of the Soviet promise for direct flights and the resumption of ties—all this could do for the Likud what Menahem Begin did for the Alignment exactly 13 years less one month ago.

Foreign Ministry on 'Arafat-Carter Meeting

TA0504125690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Here is a reaction issued today by the Foreign Ministry to the meeting between former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Yasir 'Arafat, conducted in Paris.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman told our political correspondent Arye Golan that it should not be forgotten that several days ago 'Arafat expressed support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's declaration, and said Israel should be fought with the Iraqi missiles. The spokesman noted Saddam threatened to use these missiles to destroy half of the State of Israel.

IDF Spokesman Confirms 'Good Hits' in Air Raid

TA0504053790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Apr 90 p 10

[Excerpt] The Israel Air Force yesterday attacked a terrorist target in Lebanon, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said yesterday. The pilots reported "good hits", he said. He did not identify the nature of the target or the organization with which it was associated. [passage omitted]

New Committee Alleges Torture During Questioning

TA0504111590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Apr 90 p

[By Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Members of a newly-formed "Public Committee Against Torture in Israel" charged yesterday at a press conference that the police, security services and military police have tortured prisoners during interrogations.

Committee members described as torture such practices as beatings, sleep deprivation, dousing with cold water, binding prisoners' hand and feet in a "banana position," and forcing them to stand hooded for many hours with their hands manacled behind them to a metal bar.

They said such practices violated international conventions on treatment of prisoners, to which Israel is a signatory. The group said it would monitor, investigate and publicize cases of alleged torture.

There was no immediate response to these allegations by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], but a police spokesman said any complaint of maltreatment submitted to the police ombudsman would be investigated.

Hebrew University criminologist Prof. Stanley Kohen, a member of the committee, said the Landau Commission report on Shin Bet investigation methods, which approved "moderate physical pressure" by the security services, was "a unique document, in which a society which calls itself democratic officially lays down regulations for the carrying out of torture."

Kohen said that in the wake of the Landau report, and during the intifada, the number of reported cases of torture by the security forces increased.

Psychiatrist Dr. Yehoyaqim Stein and another committee member said the Landau Commission had given a sweeping definition for hostile activity which justified special investigation methods. "There is no distinction between someone who plants a bomb in a theatre and someone who throws stones, or is fighting for his human rights; all can be classified as activity on behalf of a hostile organization, the PLO, which wants to destroy Israel."

Also appearing at the press conference were a Palestinian and an Isareli who said they had undergone torture.

The Palestinian, Isma'il al-Ghul, 22, of Ra's al-'Amud in Jerusalem, was arrested on December 16, on suspicion of killing an alleged "collaborator" in Jabal al-Mukabar. Though he confessed under interrogation and reenacted the killing, he was released last month after a man believed to be the real killer was apprehended. Al-Ghul said he confessed after he was beaten, doused with cold water, held in an isolation cell, hooded and made to stand for many hours with his hands manacled to a metal bar behind him.

The Israeli, Rami Ashur, spent 25 months in jail between 1986 and 1988, while in military service, after being convicted of "giving aid to the enemy and endangering state security." He was acquitted in a retrial.

According to testimony presented at the press conference, Ashur was maltreated by military police investigators during his interrogation: He was denied sleep, made to stand for many hours, punched in the stomach and beaten on the legs, and held in an isolation cell for four months, during which he was unable to change his clothing or wash. Once he was punished by having his hands bound to his legs behind his back, forcing him into a "banana position." Ashur twice tried to commit suicide in jail, and after his release was treated at a psychiatric hospital, according to these accounts.

The IDF said it was checking these allegations.

Incidents in Territories 4 April Updated

TA0504132790

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 5 April, in a front-page report by Joel Greenberg, reports on "fresh" news of "clashes between supporters" of Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the village of 'Awarta south of Nabulus which "climaxed a week of clashes." The latest conflagrations involved car and home torchings, which followed a kidnapping incident in which the victim, "according to some accounts," was "forced" to "confess at the local mosque to 'collaboration' with Israel."

Greenberg adds that "in clashes with troops yesterday at the Tulkarm refugee camp, three boys aged 8, 9 and 10 were injured by rubber bullets, Palestinians said. A 13-year-old was wounded by rubber bullets at the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus, and a 15-year-old was treated for beating injuries, local sources said." He adds that the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] "had no reports of the incident."

Writing on page 10 of the same issue of THE JERUSALEM POST, Matthew Seriphs reports that, according to military sources, "a Gaza man suspected of heading a local Fatah 'strike committee,' killing a suspected 'collaborator' and hoarding automatic weapons disappeared from a Gaza courthouse yesterday."

As a result, "the army set up roadblocks in the region and has appointed a committee to investigate the incident."

Dani Tzidqoni, writing on page 3 of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 5 April, reports that "eight years in prison were meted out yesterday by the Gaza military court to Fadil Sharq (20) and Muhammad Mustafa (22) of the Jabalyah refugee camp for preparing five explosive charges concealed in rubber pipes in early 1987, which they hurled once at the local IDF outpost, and another time at a military jeep.

" 'Ala Muhammad from the al-Shati' refugee camp was given a five-and-a-half-year prison term for assembling Molotov cocktails to throw on IDF patrols and for giving sanctuary to a person wanted by the authorities. All three were convicted by their own admission.

"The army yesterday used tear gas and shock grenades to disperse youths and schoolchildren who were throwing stones" in the streets of Gaza city.

"The Civil Administration yesterday allowed the al-Zuhur school in Bani-Suhaylah to reopen after months of being closed."

"Arab sources reported four injuries" yesterday.

Iraq's 'Aziz Arrives in Amman, Makes Statement

JN0404122190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Amman, 4 Apr (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here today at the head of a delegation to attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, due to begin here later today.

In a statement on arrival, the minister said: It is very clear the campaign against Iraq is premeditated and has been planned for some time. He added: Recently, the case of Bazoft, a spy of Iranian origin, was used to launch a fierce campaign against Iraq. The aim of this campaign is to tarnish Iraq's reputation, intimidate Iraq and all the Arabs, and to deprive us of our right to protect our national and pan-Arab security.

'Aziz added: Another issue was then fabricated, which, as the Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman said, was no more than a very ordinary and small deal that can be concluded normally among western and U.S. industrial and scientific institutions and companies. He said: It was depicted as a big issue, and was given fabricated dimensions. This issue was premeditated as the U.S. and British authorities admitted. The objective is to tarnish our reputation and to spread slander.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed that the realistic analysis of this campaign is that it is not merely a propaganda campaign motivated by bad intentions and the imperialist-Zionist circles' known hatred of the Arabs, but is a campaign that we must take seriously.

He added: What this campaign seeks to achieve is to tarnish our reputation and to intimidate us, and consequently to besiege us, and then to implement the conspiracy. All these are steps to pave the way for aggression. We will never forget Israel carried out an aggression against our nuclear installations designed for peaceful purposes in 1981. The minister said: At that time, Iraq was busy defending its territory and sovereignty against the Iranian aggression, and Israel seized the opportunity and attacked our installations, consequently obstructing our scientifice progress, which is our right, the right of all Arabs, and the right of all free peoples.

'Aziz noted that Israel wants to do the same again. It wants to pave the way for hitting our industrial and scientific establishments to hamper our progress and the Arab progress for years to come to maintain a great Israeli supremacy in the region.

He said: While Israeli supremacy is maintained in the industrial, military and technological spheres, Israel will continue to occupy our territory, deny us our rights, and will be able to carry out its expansionist plans at the expense of its Arab surroundings.

'Aziz added: Therefore, this is not merely a form of propaganda or a hate campaign, but a link in an aggressive plot that not only is directed at Iraq, but at the entire Arab nation.

'Aziz said that Israel and the circles that sponsor and plot with it realize that Iraq possesses industrial and scientific means to enable it to defend itself in the first place and, along with its Arab brothers, to provide a deterrent against the Israeli aggression. This deterrent is very significant where the balance of power in the region is concerned.

'Aziz said that for us, the Arabs, this deterrent is a peaceful target because it basically deters aggression, a deterrent that could give the aggressors a clear view that they cannot carry out their aggressive plans.

The foreign minister pointed out that Israel does not want the Arabs to have any deterrent for its aggressive plans. He said Israel wants us to be unarmed and consequently, when it decides to attack any Arab country, the Arabs will not have any means of retaliation.

'Aziz said: This is how we understand the campaign. President Saddam Husayn has had his say in this matter and said it very clearly, namely, if Israel attacks our scientific and industrial installations in any part of Iraq, Iraq will retaliate and its retaliation will be very strong and hard. We have the will and the means to implement what we say.

Answering a question on the required Arab position vis-a-vis the unjust campaign against Iraq, 'Aziz said: It is quite clear to us and to our Arab brothers that Iraq is not attacked for being Iraq but for being Arab. Had Iraq not been Arab it would not have been attacked as it is being attacked now because the Arab nation is the target; the pan-Arab security is the target.

'Aziz added: Therefore, as brothers in the Arab Cooperation Council, we called for a meeting to analyze the situation and discuss what we have to do. The entire Arab nation must study the situation because it is a threat to pan-Arab security.

He said: Iraq has called for an Arab League meeting on the representatives level as a first step to discuss all the details of the situation. This is because it is important to us and to all our brothers to know all the details of the situation, and of the game, so that our position will be strong and backed by documents and information that will expose the scheme.

He added: Those who are behind this scheme want to delude us that what they say is true. This is despite the fact they have played an evil game through which they wanted to entrap us. We were not entrapped, however, because we have clear and legitimate objectives, and because in dealing with the issue of the transfer of technology and scientific progress, Iraq has not violated and will not violate the international law and the rules of

dealing with states. Iraq is exercising a natural right that is exercised by other states, with one difference, namely that the clamor created against us is not created against these states. Because we are Arabs and work seriously to achieve progress, however, then what is required is to tarnish our reputation, to intimidate us, besiege us, and then to carry out an aggression against us.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed that the issue basically is aimed against the Arab nation and the pan-Arab security. He said: As a citizen and then as an official, I believe when the pan-Arab security is exposed to such threats, then these threats must be discussed at the highest level.

The delegation accompanying Tariq 'Aziz comprises Wisam al-Zahawi, senior under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, and Nizar Hamdun, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry.

He was received at the airport by Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

King Meets ACC Ministers, Urges Iraq Support

JN0404195890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received the Arab Cooperation Council's [ACC] foreign ministers at al-Nadwah Palace this evening. They presented his majesty with a summary of the progress of their negotiations and meeting in Amman and the most important issues on the agenda of this meeting. They also heard his majesty's evaluation of the general situation in both Arab and international affairs.

His Majesty King Husayn reaffirmed to the foreign ministers the need to increase their efforts to expose the scope of the vicious and unjust campaign against fraternal Iraq and the dangerous hidden events behind this campaign. His Majesty King Husayn said the campaign against Iraq is not aimed against this Arab country alone, but against the whole nation's pan-Arab course and overall security. His majesty called for a united and immediate Arab stand on this campaign and confirmation of the nation's position alongside fraternal Iraq—people and leadership.

His Majesty King Husayn repeated his affirmation that what President Saddam Husayn said in his speech was clear and must be seen as an Arab position arising from this nation's right to confront any aggression against it and to respond strongly to any hostile attempt against our pan-Arab security and right to develop, grow, and become part of the age.

His majesty said the campaign against fraternal Iraq is escalating dangerously at present. It started the moment this Arab country managed to achieve victory in defending its national soil and our Arab system. This clearly shows that our enemies still adhere to their old position that rejects any victory, development, or contribution toward peace and justice on the part of the Arab nation and its good forces.

The following attended: Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Court al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, his majesty's Political Adviser 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, ACC Secretary General Hilmi Nammar, the latter's assistent, and the ACC ambassadors in Amman.

Everyone then dined with His Majesty King Husayn.

Prime Minister Praises Iraq's 'Honorable' Stand

JN0404104890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (Petra)—Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Tuesday that the Iraqi stand, as voiced by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn Monday, "is an honourable one which all Arabs should be proud of."

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, Badran called for a "unified Arab stand to fend off the challenges and conspiracies being hatched against the Arab Nation and its interests."

"This pan-Arab stand should also includes a call for peace, respect for the rights of others and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states," he said.

Badran stressed that relations among nations should be based on "civilised humanitarian and moral bases, which do not discriminate between the great powers and the small powers."

Badran wished Iraq further strength, power and glory and the Iraqi leader every success in serving the causes of the Arab Nation.

PLO Offical Comments on Regional Relations

JN0404164490 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Amman, 4 Apr (PETRA)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Information Department, left Amman today after an official visit to Jordan of several days. During the visit, he held talks with senior Jordanian officials on relations between the PLO and Jordan. He also held talks with the information minister to coordinate on information matters.

In a news statement, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that his visit to Jordan provided him with the opportunity to hold very important political and information talks, particularly with His Majesty King Husayn. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the U.S. Congress' measure to ensure that Israel obtains $400 million for settling Jewish immigrants encourages the policies of extremism and aggression, and perpetuates the policy of support for

the expansionist nature of the Israeli Government. He added: Faced with this campaign by the U.S. Congress against Palestinian and Arab rights, and its support for the Israeli policy of aggression, there is a need to adopt a united Arab stand against this campaign.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that supporting the intifadah requires political action to convene an urgent Arab summit, and large-scale popular action so that the Congress, the U.S. Administration, and the hostile forces in the world understand that the Israeli occupation cannot deal with the intifadah unilaterally and pursue the policy of aggression and expansion at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people and the Arabs.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Israeli campaign against Jordanian-Iraqi-Palestinian coordination is exposed, particularly the campaign against Iraqi armament and Iraq's possession of certain weapons, while the United States remains silent about Israel's possession of some 100 nuclear warheads. He pointed out that Iraq's possession of specific weapons is not for purposes of aggression and expansion but to defend Iraqi national soil and to support the Arab peoples if they are the victims of foreign aggression.

On PLO relations with Syria, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that relations are normal and continuously improving, adding that meetings at the highest levels have been held between the PLO and the Syrian brothers. He continued: We expect other meetings to be held.

'Abd-Rabbuh stressed that the PLO wants to strengthen these relations further on the basis of the Casablanca summit's unanimous agreement to confront the current dangers facing us, and to support the intifadah and the state of Palestine, which has been proclaimed and recognized. He added that the PLO is seeking to establish these relations on new bases and content that will serve the Palestinian cause and the intifadah in the occupied territories and will enhance the united Arab stand against the pressures being brought to bear against us.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh was seen off at the airport by Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, the Information Ministry's secretary general, the ministry's departments heads, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

U.S. 'Inviting War' Between Arabs, Israelis

JN0404103390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
4 Apr 90 pp 1,18

[Editorial: "The U.S. Decision Is an Invitation to War and Iraq Is Not a Banana Republic"]

[Text] In his statements to the Jordanian News Agency yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn refuted the fallacies the U.S. Senate has used as justifications for bestowing American legitimacy on the Israeli decision concerning the city of Jerusalem. Since whatever is based on falsehood is false and whatever is based on forgery is counterfeit, the U.S. Senate decision—with its preamble, justifications, and conclusions—is an unfair decision which, first and foremost, reflects total disregard for international law and confirms the political blindness or feigned blindness with which the U.S. Senate is tackling one of the most sensitive issues in the Arab-Zionist conflict.

U.S. administrations always have abided by their stand which considers East Jerusalem as part of the occupied Arab territories, which meant these administrations rejected the occupation of these territories and their annexation to the Israeli entity. Such occupation and annexation also was rejected by international legitimacy and the international law as clearly affirmed in UN Security Council Resolution No. 242. Although we are against simplifying matters, the U.S. Senate decision clearly means, however, that Washington has declared, by this decision, a stand which is contrary and hostile to Resolution No. 242; in other words, it has declared a stand that conflicts with and is hostile to all peace efforts, whether those that have been made in the past, or those currently being made. This is a very serious matter, because it leaves the Arabs with the only remaining possibility to secure their rights; namely, that what was taken by force only can be retrieved by force. Through the Senate decision, Washington thus is inviting war between the Arabs and Israelis to settle their differences. Otherwise, how else do we describe such a stand by a superpower?

As for fraternal Iraq, his majesty's statements have come to assert our firm and brave support for Iraq in defending itself and confronting the unfair campaign that is being launched against it by Zionism and its allies among the big powers. In fact, the statements have come to confirm our confidence and that of our nation that Iraq, which has set a high example in courage, ability, and true desire for peace, is capable of facing the new chapter in the conspiracy, which is aimed at its existence and development programs, as well as the entire Arab soil. When President Saddam Husayn announces this capability with full clarity and pride he is in fact asserting his right to defend himself if exposed to aggression and his ability to inflict painful blows to any party that contemplates such aggression. Iraq, which does not threaten anyone and is concerned about peace, will not be an easy morsel in the grip of the Israeli entity and its allies. It is not a banana republic as some people imagine. Iraq has the capability, the courage, and the experience to cut off any evil fingers and to teach the enemies a tough lesson in defense of its existence and role as well as all the values of right, justice, and love which it upholds, believes and fights to preserve.

Information Minister: Press Law Under Revision

JN0504135890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
5-6 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sulayman 'Arar Wednesday (4 April) called for the formation of a special committee of the Jordan

Press Association (JPA) made up of members with long professional experience to deal with all issues pertaining to the press.

Speaking on Jordan Television, 'Arar called on all journalists to respect the law which controls relations between journalists themselves, protects the profession of journalism and regulates the journalists' relations with others.

"Local newspapers have lately published strong criticism of the Lower House of Parliament's sessions and many journalists boycotted the last two sessions," 'Arar said.

'Arar pointed out that Jordanian newspapers are free to publish anything even if it is directed against the executive authority and noted that Parliament had refrained from interfering in the newspapers' affairs when it came to publishing materials pertaining to the Lower House of Parliament.

But he said that Parliament has the right in particular situations to demand that the laws be respected and nothing should be published about deliberations at secret Parliament sessions.

In reply, during the same television programme entitled "Meet the Press", Mahmud al-Kayid, editor of the daily AL-RA'Y said that it was not reasonable to ask the local press to refrain from publishing anything about a Parliament session. "Parliament's debates on corruption were referred to in the press, but not the actual discussions," al-Kayid plained.

He said that once a Parliament decision reaches the public prosecutor it is no secret any more.

Late last month, 'Arar published a lengthy article in AL-RA'Y criticising the press for publishing subjects related to the corruption issue discussed by Parliament.

Al-Kayid published a reply justifying the press's stand. Following Parliament's criticism of the local press many journalists stayed away from Parliament's concluding sessions last month.

Minister of Information Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din said on the televised programme that work was under way on a new publication law because the old one was in need of modernisation and revision.

Al-Qasim Discusses Effort To Control Border

PM0504095490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] Amman—Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that Jordan will endeavor to make its borders secure to prevent infiltration incidents which Israel tries to exploit and manipulate to serve its own purposes.

Al-Qasim told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Israel benefits from incidents such as that which occurred the day before yesterday when an armed Jordanian Army conscript crossed to the occupied West Bank and was taken prisoner by the Israeli forces.

He added: The conscript's entry into Jericho was one of the freak incidents which Jordan has constantly tried to control so that no party can have a chance to exploit them.

He further said: Jordan has for many years been fully committed to controlling its long borders with other states such as the occupied Palestinian territory, Israel, Iraq, and Syria, "but attempts have been made, and will be made, to undermine Jordan's constant efforts to establish control so as to deny any party the opportunity or scope to fabricate an incident—involving Jordan or any other state—that could grant Israel breathing space in its current crisis, resulting from the Arab-backed Palestinian peace offensive." He said that Israel is the only party which rejects the concept of a just and lasting peace based on international legitimacy.

In reply to a question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the Israeli threats to Jordan, al-Qasim said: Jordan is a responsible state fully aware of its responsibility for stability in the region. We believe that Israel is experiencing a very serious crisis and seeking a pretext that will grant it some breathing space through a mistake or an isolated incident on the part of any Arab side.

'Letter of Intent' Finalized With IMF Team

JN0504093790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Apr 90 p 1

[By Ghadir Tahir]

[Text] Amman—A visiting International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation and Finance Ministry and Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) officials Wednesday finalised a letter of intent for the release of $11 million in standby IMF credit to Jordan, informed sources said.

"Overall, the talks were very smooth, and the finalisation of the letter of intent was only a formality since the groundwork for it was done in previous meetings," said one of the sources.

The projected $11 million credit is part of a $77 million package agreed upon between Jordan and the IMF last year subject to the smooth implementation of an economic restructuring programme. The Kingdom has already received $33 million. Finance Minister Basil Jardanah said last month that the remainder was to be disbursed in four tranches of $11 million each.

According to a source close to this week's talks, the Kingdom could expect to utilise the $11 million by June, after the IMF board approves the letter of intent, which has also to be endorsed by the Jordanian government.

Another topic for discussions between the IMF team and the Jordanian side, headed by Jardanah, was an economic programme for fiscal year 1990 and the national

budget, according to the source. "There had been no major disagreements over this issue," the source said. "On certain areas, the two sides agreed to disagree," the source said without elaborating, but emphasising that "there is no major outstanding issue."

Another official source, confirming that there were "minor" disagreements between the two sides, said the IMF delegation, however, left it to "the Jordanian government to make the necessary readjustments without specifying areas where the fund would like to have them made." The source indicated further "routine talks" were planned between the two sides.

The review of the budget and the related programme was supposed to have been made in November but was delayed because of the Nov. 8 general elections and the subsequent parliamentary activities.

'Immediate Contacts' on Hostage Release Noted

NC0504094690 Paris AFP in English 0932 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut, April 5 (AFP)—A pro-Libyan Palestinian group claiming to hold French hostage Jacqueline Valente said here Thursday that it was making "immediate contacts" to arrange her release.

"We have taken into consideration and are currently examining the humanitarian appeal by (Libyan leader) Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in which he... singled out the prisoner Jacqueline Valente and her family," the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) said.

"We are making immediate contacts with the concerned parties ... in light of efforts undertaken by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi on behalf of the prisoners and of contacts that he has had with us for a long time," said the FRC in a typewritten statement to Western news agencies in west Beirut.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi Wednesday urged Muslims during the holy fasting month of Ramadan, which ends in late April, to "release all hostages and political prisoners, especially those in the Middle East," according to the Libyan news agency JANA.

The Libyan leader made a special appeal on behalf of Mrs. Valente, who was kidnapped along with her two daughters and five Belgians by the FRC from a yacht, the Silco, in the eastern Mediterranean in November 1987.

The FRC, led by Palestinian dissident Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], released the children—Marie-Laure, 7, and Virginie, 5—in Libya in December 1988.

Mrs. Valente has reportedly given birth to two other children while in captivity.

The FRC also voiced hope that its initiative "would contribute to strengthening the ties of friendship between the Arab nation and the French people, its government and President Francois Mitterrand."

France had expressed satisfaction over Col. Al-Qadhdhafi's appeal and called for an early release of the Silco hostages, whose whereabouts remain unknown. Some reports have said they are being held in Lebanon or Libya.

The United States also welcomed the statement.

Mrs. Valente's sister and brother-in-law have filed for entry visas to Libya as part of a campaign to secure her release.

Seventeen other Westerners, including eight Americans and three Britons, are still missing in Lebanon, most of them believed to be in the hands of pro-Iranian Islamic militants.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi's appeal followed recent reports both in Iran and Lebanon of gathering momentum toward their release by the end of the year.

Analysts in Tehran have said the Iranian leadership is anxious to rid itself of the hostage stigma in order to attract international assistance in its reconstruction drive after the Gulf war with Iraq.

Further on Hostage Release

NC0504093890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] In a statement received by REUTER today, Fatah-The Revolutionary Council [FRC] announced that it is undertaking immediate contacts to free the hostages [as heard] it is holding.

It said it will take into consideration Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's humanitarian appeal to release all hostages in the Middle East on the occasion of the month of Ramadan.

For his part, Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat said prior to his departure for Paris yesterday that he is trying to secure the release of the Western hostages held in Lebanon for humanitarian reasons, in line with Islamic principles.

5 Injured in Israeli 'Raid' on Camp Near Tyre

NC0404173990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1732 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out an air raid some time ago against the al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre. A Palestinian source reported that a preliminary casualty count indicates that the aggression injured five children.

Ja'ja' Interviewed on Settlement With 'Awn

NC0404162790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1246 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' by unidentified announcer—live]

[Text] [Anouncer] Hello, doctor. God be with you.

[Ja'ja'] Welcome.

[Announcer] Doctor, are we disturbing you?

[Ja'ja'] Not at all.

[Announcer] Following your answer to General 'Awn which was published by AL-DIYAR today, Gen. 'Awn was quoted as saying that Dr. Ja'ja's handover of the army barracks to [Defense Minister] General Lahhud would facilitate a solution. Why do you think he said this and what is your reaction?

[Ja'ja'] Before answering your question, I wish to convey a warm greeting to all those working for the Voice of Lebanon and the inhabita .ts of al-Ashrafiyah and East

and West Beirut. As for this specific point, we do not wish to embark on a discussion of motives and background because we are not dealing with intentions. I consider that a handover would be a very positive move. However, please tell Gen. 'Awn that he should act instead of dropping hints. In other words, I believe that the handover of army barracks in all Lebanese areas to Gen. Lahhud is a practical and serious approach to stabilizing the conditions and placing the country on the road to safety and peace. I fully accept this. I have no objection to it and I welcome such a move. I will exert all my efforts to enable Gen. Lahhud to take over the army barracks in the areas where the Lebanese Forces are present within the framework of his takeover of all army barracks in all areas.

For the sake of the people, it is my opinion that this crisis, particularly its military aspect and certainly the political and other aspects, must end. We want to start with the military aspect. I reiterate that the only step which can end the military aspect of this crisis is Gen. Lahhud's takeover of army barracks throughout Lebanon. If Gen. Lahhud does not take over the army barracks, who then would be able to reunite the Army? Let me speak about the eastern areas only. After all that has happened, how could we reunite the Army which is here and elsewhere? After all that has happened, who could organize the military situation and transform the present state of military alert into a state of relative stability? Regrettably, there is a lack of confidence among all parties.

As for Gen. Lahhud, we admire him and we do not doubt his patriotism or loyalty. I imagine that if Gen. 'Awn calls on Gen. Lahhud, or thinks it would be a positive move for Lahhud to take over the army barracks in the areas under the control of the Lebanese Forces, then he too admires Gen. Lahhud and he has no objections to Lahhud and does not question his patriotism or person. From this premise, I sincerely call on Gen. Lahhud to take over all army barracks in all Lebanese areas. This would constitute at least a first step in reuniting the military establishment. It would constitute a first step in reuniting the Army. I reiterate that it would constitute the only serious and practical approach to ending the military situation in the eastern area, to ending the combat lines, crossing points, sniping, state of alert, shells, bombardments, and all the present division. It is my opinion that this is a positive step. We are fully prepared and I will exert all our efforts in this direction. I hope that Gen. 'Awn will do the same. We would thus make a start toward easing matters for the people. I hope this step will be taken before the holidays so that the people can celebrate in the knowledge that shells will not be falling on them. The military establishment would thus have a chance to catch its breath and the Army would again represent all Lebanon and all citizens, and not just groups with personal loyalties, would trust it again.

[Announcer] Gen. 'Awn was quoted by the media today as expressing astonishment over what he termed the Ja'ja'-al-Hirawi alliance, since, in accordance with the al-Ta'if accord, al-Hirawi will have to disband the militias. How can you go along with that?

[Ja'ja'] You mentioned two things: the Ja'ja'-al-Hirawi alliance and the disbandment of the militias. Concerning the alliance, this description does not quite correspond to reality. The issue is not one of alliance or friendship; it is not a question of whether a friendship exists with President al-Hirawi. For me, the only approach toward resolving at least the current crisis, and perhaps the crisis we have been experiencing for the past year or two, is for legitimacy to take over, whether this legitimacy is represented by President al-Hirawi, [the late] President Mu'awwad, or any other elected president. As for the second point, the militia for us is not an end in itself, but something that was created to fill a specific gap when the state's institutions were unable to fill all the gaps. The militia is here until the state arises, and it works for the establishment of the state. Based on this premise, once the state arises, and once there is a full and comprehensive plan for the abolition of all militias and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon, ours will be the first militia to disband. I repeat, ours will be the first militia to disband, because we do not exist just for the sake of existence, but are here to work toward that end; that is, to establish a state and prepare for the Lebanon of the future.

[Announcer] If the barracks in Kasrawan and Jubayl are handed over to Gen. Lahhud....

[Ja'ja', interrupting] And Beirut.

[Announcer] Yes, excuse me. If they are handed over to Gen. Lahhud, what do you think will happen to the barracks in al-Matn, which are under the control of Gen. 'Awn?

[Ja'ja'] If the intentions are sincere, Gen. Lahhud is supposed to take over all army barracks—all of them, without exception. I believe such a step will certainly have several positive results. Most importantly, it will enable us to get the Army establishment united again and turn it into an establishment acceptable on the national level to all citizens. At present, I believe that the Army, as an integrated establishment, does not exist, at least not in the eastern area. There are only some groups here and there, a part here and a part there. This does not constitute an establishment and does not live up to our expectations or those of the citizens. Therefore, everybody must hand over all army barracks to Gen. Lahhud. In doing so, we would be true to all we are saying. Anyone who truly wants to have a state and to have establishements, anyone who is concerned about the state and its establishments, must do so, if he cares for what is right for the state establishments.

[Announcer] Dr. Ja'ja', let us speak more frankly. It is commonly believed among the people and widely thought within international and domestic quarters that the militias are normally in conflict with the legitimate

authorities. Now you are calling for legitimacy and demanding a state. How can we explain this?

[Ja'ja'] Originally the Lebanese Forces were created to defend Lebanon. Lebanon is represented by its legitimate authority. Lebanon is not an abstract thing or theory. Who represents Lebanon? Each of us claims to represent Lebanon, but ultimately and practically, only the legitimate authority represents Lebanon. Therefore, the Lebanese Forces do not exist to fight the legitimate authority or share influence with it, but rather to defend it. On this basis, nobody should be astonished if we call for legitimacy, and this is not the first time we have done so. In 1975, the steadfastness of our strugglers made room for legitimacy. The same applies to 1981, 1982, 1983, and 1984. The same thing is true now. We are here to defend Lebanon and Lebanon is represented by its legitimaate authority, so no one should be surprised that we are defending legitimacy. No one should believe we are in a continuous struggle with legitimacy. That would be true only in a very few cases: If the legitimacy had become illegitimate, if the legitimacy intended to sell out Lebanon, or if the legitimacy had ceased to be true to the hopes and aspirations of the Lebanese people.

[Announcer] Doctor, in a statement you made today you said that it is possible to wait for all measures which would end the anomalous situation. Is there a deadline, for example, for ending this anomalous situation and, in any event, will this waiting take a long time?

[Ja'ja'] It is a pity that the citizens continue to suffer this torture. It is a pity that we should continue to inflict suffering on the people by continuing to raise such slogans as sovereignty, fighting al-Ta'if and secterianism, and reunifying Lebanon. It is a pity that we should continue to hold the people hostage so that we can keep our positions. We are all supposed to exert all our efforts together to give the people a rest. There must be a people for there to be a country, for there to be sovereignty, independence, and a future. Therefore, I hope everybody will soon return to their senses and act on the basis that it has become necessary to deliver the people from their present situation. It is my opinion that the only way to save them at present is by giving in to legitimacy.

[Announcer] A digression, if you will allow me: The higher council of the National Liberal Party yesterday decided to withdraw its representatives from the Lebanese Forces Command Council. Does the doctor have a comment on this?

[Ja'ja'] The first thing I want to say is God bless the soul of Camille Sham'un. It is a shame that we should make Camille Sham'un die twice. It is a shame that after all that Camille Sham'un did, we should dishonor his name and distort his record. I believe that President Sham'un was one of the greatest leaders of this country, if not the greatest. I greatly regret the childish talk we hear now and then. I wish to recall that [National Liberal Party leader] Danny Sham'un supported the al-Ta'if agreement and his two deputies, who attended the al-Ta'if meetings, signed the al-Ta'if agreement. Danny Sham'un went along with the al-Ta'if—and he must remember the meetings we had the time—until he saw that he would not have much luck in the presidential elections which took place after the al- Ta'if accord. It is a pity that we should tackle national issues in such a lowly, childish, and narrow-minded way. At any rate, the National Liberals are in the vanguard of the Lebanese Forces and they will not stop being part of the Lebanese Forces because of any decision or announcement by a certain person. They have been and will continue to be at the core of the Lebanese Forces as long as something called the Lebanese Forces continues to exist.

[Announcer] Can we ask another question, Doctor?

[Ja'ja'] Ask as many questions as you want.

[Announcer] How does the doctor view the fate of the crisis and the way it is being handled at present?

[Ja'ja'] It is my opinion that we must end the people's suferring. Despite all the difficulties we are encountering, I believe we must remain very hopeful of a solution. A solution is inevitable. We are all supposed to relinqish our positions together. We must not cling to to our personal interests. We must have a handover to legitmacy to see how we will be reunited through its framework so that we can rise with this country. If we continue our present course and remain stubborn, our fate will be extinction, ruination, and more tragedies and calamities. Let us wake up to this reality and act on this basis. We are fully aware of the present situation. We will work night and day with all our strength, awareness, and efforts to steer the country to the shore of safety. I hope all of you realize this fact before it is too late. We will spare no effort and leave no stone unturned to end this crisis in a proper and appropriate way. Let us keep our faith. I want everyone to know that it is necessary that we all act together. Silence, acquiescence, and trivialization are no longer permissible. We want to join hands to extricate ourselves from the present crisis and reconstruct what has been destroyed first and then consider how we can attain a new Lebanon, which we all cherish.

[Announcer] On behalf of all members of the family of the Voice of Lebanon who are gathered around us at this moment we tell you: Thank you and may God keep you.

[Ja'ja'] Greetings to you.

[Announcer] May God keep you.

[Ja'ja'] Thank you.

Bishops Call on 'Awn, Ja'ja' To Reach Agreement

NC0404193190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The Maronite bishops council has addressed a letter to General 'Awn and Dr. Ja'ja'. The letter says: In view of the tragic situation in the eastern areas; in view of the destruction and displacement that has taken place

and the paralysis that has gripped these areas on every level as a result of the two months of war; out of our sense of responsibility as prelates of the Maronite Church to which you belong and our pastoral duty toward you and toward our spiritual sons who are suffering because of this war, which has destroyed their homes and their sources of livelihood and made them homeless on the roads in Lebanon and the world, causing them to move about aimlessly and hopelessly and emigrate by the hundreds daily—something which will empty these areas of their residents and thus threaten the fate of the Christians in Lebanon and the east; because of our conviction that by fighting each other you only aim to advance a view whose advocates claims that they seek to safeguard the rights of the Christians in a homeland in which they would be equal to other citizens in an atmosphere of full freedom, sovereignty, and independence, but whose results have been contrary to these declarations; in view of the fact that the war of attrition and the war over positions cannot continue without destroying the Christian existence at least in the areas where this war is taking place; and in view of the fact that claims of defending legitimacy or of self-defense are meaningless when legitimacy annihilates its people and the right to self-defense annihilates innocent people who have nothing to do with a war in which hundreds of them are falling; in view of all of this, we believe that our duty demands that we tell you, in our capacity as persons spiritually responsible for the fate of our sons, including yourselves, that your conscience and duty demand: first, that you cease trading accusations through the information media; second, that you cease fire and withdraw the Army and the Lebanese Forces elements to the barracks; third, that you open the roads to the citizens so they can earn their livelihoods and support their families and to the students so that they can return to school; fourth, that you release the detainees; and fifth, that you reach agreement with other leaders on a political plan which would guarantee the rights of the Christians you say you want to protect.

If you are unable to reach agreement, our conscience and duty demand that we tell you with all love and sincerity that your continued responsibility for this situation is tantamount to the continued destruction of the 2,000-year-old Christian existence in Lebanon and the destruction of the Lebanese state. The fate of the Christians is not decided by two opposing rifles which sow fear, death, and destruction, but by their brains, solidarity, national loyalty, love of each other, fear of God, and adherence to the teaching of the Gospel which guides us toward good and peace. We are confident that the atmosphere of the forthcoming Holy Week will prompt you to remember the greatest sacrifice made by Christ to redeem mankind and the decision dictated by your Christian and national conscience as soon as possible.

[Dated] Bkirki, 4 April 1990

Dr. Samir Ja'ja' met with Bishops Abu-Jawdah and al-Jumayyil this evening for one hour in his office in Zuq Mikha'il. The Voice of Lebanon has learned that after receiving the letter, Dr. Ja'ja' expressed his complete readiness to respond favorably to everything contained in the letter. Dr. Ja'ja' also emphasized the need for the solution to come within the framework of and through legitimacy. Dr. Ja'ja' also proposed immediate implementation of the security solution, which provides for handing over all army barracks in the eastern area to [Defense Minister] General Emil Lahhud and the withdrawal of all Lebanese Forces elements to their barracks, and to leave the door open to political dialogue, provided it is within the framework of legitimacy, to rescue the whole country.

Ja'ja' Declares Unilateral Media Campaign Truce

NC0404211190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] In response to the wish of Patriarch Sfayr and the Maronite bishops, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has announced a unilateral halt to media campaigns effective at midnight tonight.

A statement he issued this evening said: In response to the wish of the Maronite bishops council, which convened under the chairmanship of His Beautitude Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr on 4 April 1990; on the occasion of the forthcoming passion week, which we hope will mark the end of the sufferings of the Lebanese people; out of our desire to restore normal life in the free areas; in order to achieve a final end to military operations, which cannot take place without a legitimate Lebanese army taking over all the military resources of the Lebanese Army in Lebanon, in general, and in the free areas, in particular, considering that this step would give reassurance and confidence to the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Forces; and in order to open the way to a calm political dialogue to achieve a comprehensive national solution, whose basis will be the sole internationally recognized legitimacy, I announced, as a gesture of good will, our adherence to an information media truce, which is the first point in the letter of his beatitude the patriarch and the Maronite bishops council.

I ask all the friendly media and the Lebanese Forces information media to abide unilaterally by the media truce effective 2400 on 4 April 1990. I also announce the Lebanese Forces' readiness to facilitate all the security and political solutions that are based on the unity of the legitimate political and military institutions.
[Signed] The Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja'

Sa'adadh on 'Awn's Joining Government

NC0404162090 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah has stated that a solution to the crisis in the eastern area will only stop the bleeding, but the wounds will remain. He noted that he does not object to 'Awn joining an expanded government comprising all parties.

Overnight Firing Reported in Eastern Areas

NC0504062890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Exchanges of artillery and machine gun fire have continued on the eastern area combat lines. Overnight and during the early hours of the morning the clashes centered on the al-Karantina port, Sinn al-Fil, Salome, al-Nab'ah, al-Dawrah, and Nahr al-Mawt axes.

Yesterday's clashes along the combat lines from Beirut to Kasrawan left one person dead and three others injured, according to preliminary reports.

Meanwhile, the two warring parties continued their reinforcements. A REUTER correspondent reported that the Lebanese Forces are reinforcing their positions in al-Ashrafiyah.

Cease-Fire Reached Following Renewed Clashes

NC0404193790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The 'Awn gunmen have not been pleased by the relative calm. After attacking the combat lines in Sinn al-Fil, al-Nab'ah, Galerie Khabbaz, and al-Dawrah this morning, they resumed their attacks this afternoon. They fired shells and rockets in various directions. Shells and rockets fell in residential neighborhoods in Hayy al-Siryan, al-Siyufi, the Olivetti, and al-Barjawi. Shells also fell in the port and al-Karantinah areas a short while ago.

The security committee held contacts to achieve a cease-fire. The 'Awn gunmen claimed that their areas on the northern al-Matn coast also came under shell fire. Two 130-mm shells fired from the 'Awn gunmen's artillery emplacements in upper al-Matn fell in al-Ashrafiyah area a few minutes ago.

In view of the escalation this evening, contacts were held with mediation committee members Abbot Bulus Nu'man and Lawyer Shakir Abu-Sulayman, who in turn resumed their contacts with the two parties. An agreement for a cease-fire to go into effect at 1900 was reached. The military committee will supervise its implementation.

The response to the cease-fire was further shelling against al-Ashrafiyah, the area of Lebanese Forces headquarters, and al-Dawrah. The shelling caused fires in the areas.

Lebanese Forces Come Under Fire From 'Awn Forces

NC0404112090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces positions as well as residential areas in Hayy al-Siryan and al-Jisr al-Wati came under sniper fire and shelling from the opposing positions of 'Awn's armed men before noon today.

Meanwhile, press sources have reported from East Beirut that a rebellion took place in 'Awn's al-Fayyadiyah barracks yesterday, after which a state of alert was declared and three officers, including a major, were arrested.

Resistance Attacks Militia Official's Car

NC0404122390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] National Resistance men detonated an explosive charge on the al-Bayyadah road as the car of a person named George Furayhah, an agent Lahd militia official, was passing. He and one of his companions were seriously wounded as a result.

The Lebanese National Resistance Front has claimed responsibility for the operation and asserted that Furayhah's aide was killed by the explosion.

Al-Shar' Attends EC Meeting in Luxembourg

JN0404080290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Luxembourg—A meeting was held in Luxembourg yesterday between the Arab ministerial committee in support of the intifadah, which includes Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Tunisian Foreign Minister Ismail Khelil, PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi, and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi; and the European troika delegation which comprises the Irish foreign minister, who is the current EC chairman; the French foreign minister, who is the former EC chairman; and the Italian foreign minister, who will be the next EC chairman. The Egyptian ambassador in Brussels participated in the meeting, deputizing for the Egyptian foreign minister.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed relations between the EC states and the Arab League states in light of the new developments following the Arab-European dialogue which was held at the end of last year. The two sides also reviewed the situation in the Middle East, the consequences of the Soviet Jewish emigration and of settling them in the occupied Arab territories, and Israel's repressive measures against the Palestinian citizens.

Al-Shar', who spoke on behalf of the Arab ministerial committee, stressed that the Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine is a threat to security and stability in the region, a termination of peace efforts, and a violation of human rights and international laws. Al-Shar' called on the EC to work for issuing a UN Security Council resolution to prevent the Soviet Jews from settling in the occupied Arab territories, and to ask the UN Security Council to supervise the implementation of this resolution.

Al-Shar' also asked the EC to exert political and economic pressure on Israel to prevent it from violating the Palestinian and Arab rights. He stressed the need for holding an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

More on Meeting

PM0504150890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Apr 90 pp 1-2

['Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi report: "Al-Shar' Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Like the Likud, Israel's Labor Party Wants Expansion, Not Peace"]

[Text] Luxembourg—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stated that the Israeli leaders, whether they are from the Labor Party or the Likud, do not want peace, are working for further expansion, want to keep the occupied Arab territories, and are encouraging Jewish immigrants to build new settlements.

In a statement he made to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT after attending the meeting between an Arab ministerial delegation and an EC ministerial delegation in Luxembourg Monday and Tuesday, al-Shar' said that the Israeli Labor Party confirmed in recent Knesset discussions that it supports keeping Jerusalem as "Israel's unified capital" and keeping the Golan under Israeli sovereignty, and that these two matters were not negotiable. He continued: "That is the Labor Party. The Likud says it would never withdraw a single foot from the occupied Arab territory. We can easily conclude that the two main parties in Israel want further expansion."

He emphasized that the unified Arab delegation found a great understanding on the EC delegation's part of the dangers of the policy of settling Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories and of the threat which it poses to peace.

He added: The Europeans asssured us that they are opposed to the settlement of Jewish immigrants in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Syrian Golan, and East Jerusalem.

He also said that the European delegation expressed support for an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN supervision.

It worth noting that, in addition to al-Shar', the Arab miniterial delegation included Tunisian Foreign Minister Ismail Khelil, PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi, and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

Minister Al-Shar' on Iraqi Chemical Capability

TA0504073290 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Apr 90 p 6

["Exclusive" report from Paris by Eldad Beck]

[Excerpt] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with his French counterpart Roland Dumas in Paris yesterday. They discussed the Israeli-Arab conflict and the situation in Lebanon. They dwelt extensively on the situation in the territories and what the Syrian minister described as "the negative impact of the immigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine, which constitutes a threat to peace and stability in the region, as well as to the peace process."

At the end of the meeting, al-Shar' answered questions by HADASHOT regarding tension between Israel and Iraq in light of President Saddam Husayn's declaration on the use of chemical weapons.

[al-Shar'] We believe that the cause of tension in the area is Israel's expansionist policy and the large arsenal it has, which includes nuclear and chemical weapons. We in Syria express solidarity with any Arab country that faces Israeli threats, because we believe that Israel, which occupies so much Arab land, is the Arabs' common

enemy. The solidarity we express has nothing to do with potential differences of opinion we may have with any specific Arab country.

[Beck] Do you think that the Iraqi chemical capability is a threat to Syria, too?

[al-Shar'] It would be insane and foolish to think that the Arab countries that are militarily strong might threaten other Arab countries. Any Arab country that threatens another will find itself facing the entire Arab nation. Even in the case of arrogant muscle flexing or a campaign against us from some Arab countries, we can only express our support for these countries' people who face the Israeli threat. In the course of the Paris conference on chemical weapons, Syria suggested ridding the Middle East of nuclear and biological weapons. This offer still stands, and we think that all the current talk about alleged nuclear or chemical weapons possessed by the Arab side is only meant to serve as a means of extortion directed at the Arabs as a whole. If there had been a sincere desire for peace and security, Israel should have accepted our offer and declared the Middle East a region free of any lethal weapon. We are prepared to invest efforts toward this within the various UN forums. [passage omitted]

Damascus Daily Stresses Need for Arab Unity

JN0304213690 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 29 Mar 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Tubruq Meeting and the Open Possibilities"]

[Excerpts] The quadripartite meeting of the Arab leaders in Tubruq has aroused the deep interest of mass media all over the world. This raises a very important point, namely the weight enjoyed by any Arab meeting that promotes unity. Although the quadripartite meeting of President Hafiz al-Asad, President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, President Husni Mubarak, and President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir took place on the sidelines of fraternal Libya's celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the evacuation of foreign forces from its territories, the significance of the anniversary and the meeting is deeply satisfying to the Arab conscience that yearns for unity and has renewed absolute faith in the need to achieve unity. [passage omitted]

Syria has been carrying the banner of unity in words and deeds, and the call for unity has been an essential part of the strategy that has defined Syria's direction and course. Syria's hand has been stretched out to all Arabs to establish unity. Syria is also ready to tread the path of unity with any Arab country to whatever degree it desires and to the level permitted by its own conditions and circumstances.

Unity, in fact, is not only in form. The unity we are seeking is the one that unifies the Arabs in the battle. Regarding the different types of unity, we can discuss them and find certain types that are more than a facade, show, or ostentation without content. We can find an effective and dynamic unity that can bring its weight to bear in the conflict with the enemy and use its power in the equation between the Arabs and their enemies.

Hence, it is no wonder that the world as well as the Arab masses show interest in the Tubruq meeting. The meeting also scared the enemies of the Arab nation, who saw the opportunities now open to Arab leaders for action toward unity, joint Arab action, and coordination to face the sweeping international changes, as well as toward pooling Arab resources for the battle that is now looming and challenging and provoking every Arab country and individual in the form of intensive Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Unity is the most potent and powerful weapon in the hands of the Arabs. As leader al-Asad said in Libya, unity is our destiny. Unity in today's world of large international communities is an inevitable necessity if the Arabs want to save themselves from death and extinction.

Armored Unit Performs Exercise, Talas Comments

JN0304214590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] On the instructions of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and armed forces, one of our combat armored formations carried out a tactical exercise with the Air Force, Air Defenses, and Air Landing Forces. The practical parts of the exercise were attended by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces; and senior General Command and field officers.

At the beginning of the exercise, the director of the exercise gave a briefing in which he reviewed the stages and training objectives of the exercise. Afterwards, the participating arms were inspected. Then, the practical implementation of the exercise began and the participating forces carried out their tasks successfully. They managed to halt the advance of a hypothetical penetrating enemy force and inflict heavy losses on it. The enemy forces were repulsed after a series of successful counterattacks. Our forces then chased the enemy forces into the occupied territory, where they managed to penetrate the enemy's fortified area and occupy it in cooperation with the tactical Air Landing Forces and with the support of the Air Force and other Army corps.

At the end of the exercise, Gen. Talas praised the management and participants concerned with the exercise. He also paid tribute to their organizational and operational efforts. He also commended the fighters—officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers—for

their good performance in utilizing land and arms and for their high morale. The general said that training, knowledge and understanding of weapons and equipment, and faith and confidence in the inevitability of victory under President struggler Hafiz al-Asad, are basic and important factors in our battle against the Zionist enemy, particularly at the current stage in our history when our Arab masses are waging battles of steadfastness and confrontation against an arrogant, Nazi, and aggressive enemy. The general urged the fighters to make great efforts, redouble their training, and be constantly vigilant to deter any aggression that Israel and those who stand behind it might consider carrying out. He also called on the fighters to maintain the combat preparedness of our valiant Armed Forces to defend the homeland and the Arab nation, maintaining the slogan either martyrdom of victory until our Arab nation's objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism are attained.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Meets With Army Commanders

BK0504093990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 5 (AFP)—President Najibullah met here Thursday [5 April] with top military commanders in the first conference with the armed forces since last month's failed coup attempt, sources said. The secret conference, held in an underground hall at the Foreign Ministry under heavy security, was also attended by Defence Minister Muhammad Aslam Watanjar and his four deputies.

Mr. Watanjar replaced Shahnawaz Tanai, the defence minister who fled Kabul after leading the abortive March 6 coup mounted with backing from sections of the armed forces. Forces loyal to Mr. Najibullah crushed the coup attempt in 24 hours after fierce fighting.

Journalists were not allowed to witness the proceedings at Thursday's conference, on which no substantive details were immediately available.

Rabbani on Talks in Tehran With Nine Parties

PM0404134690 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 31 Mar 90 p 3

[Interview with Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Islamic Society of Afghanistan and reconstruction minister in the interim Afghan mujahidin government, by Muhammad Mahjub; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mahjub] What are the results of the talks which you held in Tehran with the leaders of the nine parties?

[Rabbani] I was a member of the interim Afghan government delegation entrusted with visiting Tehran to discuss the elections agreed by the transitional government. We discussed the issue with them and they agreed with us on the basics, but they voiced some reservations about the electoral constituencies and some other matters. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] Do you expect to reach an agreement with the nine parties?

[Rabbani] I do not expect major results to be reached. I believe that the election prospects have deteriorated since the attempted coup in Kabul; it is not now the mujahidin's first priority. There are issues which are more important at the moment. So I do not believe that major results can be reached with the leaders of the nine Tehran-based parties.

[Mahjub] In view of recent changes, will the mujahidin government remain as it is, or is there a possibility of some changes being made?

[Rabbani] I see a need to make some changes in the government—an issue which is under discussion. In my view, the jihad must be given absolute priority. I will stress to the brothers the need to move into the liberated territory in Afghanistan this year and not to preoccupy themselves with purely organizational matters. It is not the time for purely administrative matters. It is the time for making moves for the sake of the jihad inside. This is in addition to continuing our political moves outside.

[Mahjub] How would you assess the attempted coup led by former Afghan Defense Minister General Shahnawaz Tanai against the Najibullah government?

[Rabbani] In my view, the coup is nothing new. It is part of the conflict between the two Khalq and Parcham wings within Kabul's ruling communist regime. The conflict between the two wings is old; it is a power struggle. I believe that the Afghan mujahidin's strikes and their belief that the present regime cannot remain in power were behind the attempted coup.

In fact the attempted coup was not made in response to an initiative from outside, because the internal situation is expected to collapse completely. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] What about your current relations with [Islamic Party of Afghanistan leader Gulbuddin] Hekmatyar?

[Rabbani] Since Hekmatyar adopted his individual position on the attempted coup led by General Shahnawaz Tanai, his relations with all the brothers in the government have been virtually severed. We in the interim government are always eager to unite the Afghan jihad factions and adopt a unified political and military stand, especially since weather conditions are now suitable for launching successful military operations.

[Mahjub] Hekmatyar warned that he might form a new government with the nine parties if the Kabul regime was toppled. What is your comment?

[Rabbani] Such statements serve no one but the enemies of the Afghan jihad. Such statements mean nothing except that he has decided to follow a path other than that followed by his brothers, who have always been with him in the jihad arena. What Hekmatyar is doing now is not in the interests of the jihad. I emphasize that if Hekmatyar had consulted his brothers Afghan jihad leaders over the coup plan, the outcome would have been different. Any attempted coup in Kabul without prior coordination will certainly fail. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] Do you believe that you can capture Kabul through guerrilla warfare, which was suitable at a previous stage, or does the situation require a different kind of military readiness?

[Rabbani] As we understand the situation, we have started to think about forming a regular offensive army in North Afghanistan. We allocated 10,000 mujahid to form a regular army, but we have not managed to secure the essential requirements for it—even for 5,000 troops—although conditions are favorable now for

dealing a mortal blow to the enemy. But we must prepare ourselves first. [passage omitted]

Missile Purchased From 'Opposition Groups'

LD04042012 90 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] On the basis of Decree No. 204, dated 10 October 1987, a Strella-2 type surface-to-air missile was purchased today from the opposition groups in the surroundings of Shakardara district, Kabul Province.

The military section of BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reported that the purchase price was paid in accordance with the decree.

Mujahidin Reportedly Capture Outposts in Jowzjan

BK0504023290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have captured the newly set-up outposts of the Kabul regime in Aqchah District of Jowzjan Province. MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] reports that the mujahidin also attacked the Kabul regime positions in the northeast of Kabul, killing 12 officers.

Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Leaves for Al-Quds Meeting

BK0404155790 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The Al-Quds Committee meets in Rabat on Friday [6 April] to discuss the illegal settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied Arab land. The meeting of the 15-member OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] committee has been convened by King Hassan of Morocco.

Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud left Dhaka today for Rabat to represent Bangladesh at the meeting. He is leading a three-member delegation. Foreign ministry sources in Dhaka said Bangladesh feels the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories is an obstacle to the peace process in the Middle East. Dhaka has already expressed concerned over the Jewish settlement and said it must be stopped in the interest of durable peace in the region.

India

Kashmir Governor Reviews Law, Order Situation

BK0504035890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, reviewed the law and order situation in the Kashmir Valley with senior officials in Srinagar yesterday. He arrived in the state capital after a three-day visit to New Delhi, where he apprised the prime minister on the steps being taken to deal with the situation in the state. He also held talks with other central leaders.

In an interview to Delhi Doordarshan [television] after his meeting with the prime minister, he said that a congenial atmosphere is being created for the return of the migrants from the valley. Mr. Jag Mohan said that the assistance of the majority community is being secured in this regard and special officers are being appointed to sort out the grievances of the migrants.

Meanwhile, curfew has been relaxed in Srinagar for 12 hours from 0500 this morning.

Minister Notes Border Security Measures

BK0504080990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The home minister, Mr. Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has said that a number of measures have been taken to strengthen the security on the India-Pak border. These include the strengthening of the Border Security Force [BSF], establishment of more border outposts, and construction of additional observation post towers.

Giving this information in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today, the home minister said that the BSF has also been equipped with sophisticated equipment and vehicles for intensive patrolling. He said as a result of these measures 10,344 intruders were apprehended at the border in the last three years. He said during this period, 813 encounters took place and 1,144 persons were killed. The home minister also told the house that security has been provided to the union ministers and other VIP's on the basis of the threat assessment carried out by the concerned security agencies. He said certain norms have been laid down for this and the security is provided irrespective of which party an individual belongs to. The minister also informed the house that the security arrangements are reviewed from time to time keeping in view the threat perceptions.

Security Steps Taken Against Strike in Punjab

BK0504033490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, all the 31 bodies of the people killed in bomb blast in Batala town were cremated late in the evening. The state governor, Mr. Nirmal Kumar Mukherjee, the state chief secretary, and other senior officials attended the cremation.

The indefinite curfew is continuing in the town. The situation in the town is now quite under control. According to police sources, Babbar Khalsa is suspected to be responsible for yesterday's bomb blast in Batala. However, no arrest has been made so far. Several political parties and organizations have condemned the ghastly killings of innocent people.

The Punjab government has made adequate security arrangements in view of the bundh [strike] call given by

the CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Janata Dal, and Akali Dal-Longowal for today in protest against the Batala bomb blast. The call was given at a meeting of the senior leaders of these parties in Chandigarh last evening. The meeting called upon the people of the state to maintain communal harmony despite any provocation.

An official spokesman told AIR [All India Radio] Chandigarh correspondent this morning that security forces all over the state have been alerted to ensure that no untoward incident takes place.

In Delhi, the Bharatiya Janata Party has given a call for a bundh in protest against the Batala killings. However, essential services like water, electricity, transport, and hospitals are exempted from the bundh call.

Three 'Hard-Core Terrorists' Killed in Punjab

BK0404145290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, three hard-core terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Ferozepore District this morning. According to an official spokesman, the killed terrorists include Baldev Singh Deep Singh Wala who carried a reward of 20,000 rupees on his head. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from the site of the encounter.

Elsewhere in the state, two persons were killed by the terrorists in separate incidents in Amritsar District last night.

17 More Arrested in Kashmir; Situation 'Peaceful'

BK0404150890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The government is making all efforts to open some of the banks in Srinagar and to ensure regular supply of essential drugs in the valley. The minister in charge of Kashmir affairs, Mr. George Fernandes, today (?held) a meeting with the drug manufacturers and distributors in New Delhi and requested them to return to Srinagar. He said adequate steps have been taken for their safety and security.

The security forces have arrested 17 more subversives in the Kashmir valley since yesterday evening. The drive against them has resulted in the killing of 19 and arrest of 110 in the last five days.

The situation throughout the Kashmir valley remained peaceful today and no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere. Curfew was relaxed in Srinagar for 10 hours from 0500 this morning. Over 200 trucks and tankers carrying essential supplies left Jammu for Srinagar today.

Spokesman on Pakistan's Disinformation on Kashmir

BK0404160990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] India today called upon Pakistan to stop forthwith the campaign of disinformation and distortion over the so-called influx of refugees into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that a mix of religious fundamentalism, terrorism, and fanaticism that Pakistan is building up with its religious-oriented propaganda, arms supplies, training of terrorists, and smuggling of both materiel and men could have serious consequences for Pakistan and peace and stability in our region. The spokesman reiterated that it is a physical impossibility for large numbers of people, reportedly varying between 5,000 and 50,000, to cross unobserved well-defended, geographically impossible, and difficult territory. The spokesman said spreading this kind of disinformation is an obvious ruse meant to build a smokescreen around the nefarious activities going on in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and more activities that are being planned.

Iran's Statement on Kashmir Called 'Interference'

BK0504031590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] India has expressed regret over the statements from Iran on the Kashmir situation and said that they constituted interference in its internal affairs. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said yesterday that without exception these statements are based on incorrect appreciation of developments in Kashmir and affect the growth of mutual understanding between India and Iran.

The spokesman said that as a multiethnical, multilingual, and staunchly secular country, India has shown every respect for the sentiments of Iran and other countries. India believes that the development of friendly and cooperative relations with Iran would be conducive for regional peace and mutual cooperation, the spokesman said.

Gujral Deplores Interference in Afghan Affairs

BK0504031990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] India has deplored the interference of outside forces in Afghanistan. The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, while intervening in the discussion on the demand for grants of his ministry in the Lok Sabha yesterday, said this is violative of the Geneva accord. He said India has been supporting Afghanistan's cause in every possible way and would continue to do so in the future. The India-Afghan joint commission will meet next month, Mr. Gujral said.

Commentary Analyzes Present Unrest in Nepal

BK0404115990 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Rai Singh Commentary entitled "Movement for Multiparty Democracy in Nepal"]

[Text] Democracy denotes different things to different people and to different regimes. To Nepal's royalty, democracy does not seem to denote the multiparty system and so the partyless Panchayat in the Himalayan kingdom. The people of Nepal, however, no longer seem to subscribe to this idea. Hence, the struggle for multiparty democracy all over the country.

On 19 February this year, christianed Democracy Day, the current agitation was launched. It was also the 40th anniversary of the Nepali people's liberation from the Rana oligarchy. In 1961, King Mahendra dismissed the democratically elected Koirala government. The kind of democracy which the kingdom has been witnessing under the partyless Panchayat system during the last 20 years has failed to satisfy the people's aspirations.

The recent Cabinet reshuffle in which (?three) Cabinet ministers, four ministers of state, and three assistant ministers [figures as heard] were dropped and the strike in which doctors, nurses, and medical students participated are significant developments in the struggle. This is because dropping of ministers holding moderate views from the Cabinet indicate the administration's determination to get tough with the agitators. However, with the participation of even the medical men in the struggle, there is no doubt that the movement for democracy is no longer confined to a political class of people. On the contrary, the movement has now gained a widespread base, encompassing all sections of the people. Earlier, the agitators used to be confined to Kathmandu and to one or two other towns. But, now even the rural folks are reported to be participating in the struggle despite firings, beatings, and arrests. This, together with other factors, may create a situation of confrontation and conflict within Nepal, which may also have an undesirable effect on neighboring countries also.

However, in spite of the statements and speeches by some Indian political parties and their leaders supporting the Nepalese people's struggle, the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, had made it clear that India regarded the present unrest in Nepal as its internal matter. India's official stand has not been changed or modified, despite the remarks of communists that the king of Nepal and his men took comfort from Mr. Singh's remark. In fact, this position has been reiterated by India during the foreign secretary-level talks in Kathmandu for a comprehensive solution to Nepal's problem with India. In this context, the Nepali contention that the present unrest in their country was primarily triggered off by the economic difficulty following the lapse of Indo-Nepal trade and transit agreements sounds rather farfetched because the present struggle is for a change in the political system of the country.

At the center of the current unrest in Nepal is the present partyless panchayati system introduced in 1962 by late King Mahendra. The detractors of the system believe that it encourages despotism. On the other hand, the royalty of Nepal views that in a small land-locked developing country like Nepal, only a partyless political system can ensure stability and order. Of course, in these days when even East European countries which have been under one-party central system are turning over to multiparty system, it is anybody's guess how long will the establishment in Nepal be able to cope with the situation, and at the same time satisfy the people's political and socioeconomic aspirations. Nepal's former prime minister, Mr. Kirtinidhi said on 26 February this year that the sooner the dialogue between the opposition and the Panchayat leaders started, the better it was for the Nepali people, for the crown, and for the country. Mr. Bista held the present government responsible for vitiating the political atmosphere in the country and said if necessary, the initiative for the dialogue should come from the king because the present government had lost its credibility. Quote, confrontation and violence would land the country in a state of turmoil—a state which must be avoided at all costs, unquote, he affirmed. This is a sane advice and should be heeded, and urgently so by the powers that be in Kathmandu. Any further delay or prevarication may have both short-term and long-term adverse effects which the Himalayan kingdom can ill afford.

PRC Minister's Visit Seen as Positive

BK0404112290 Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Mr. Qian in Delhi]

[Text] Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen's four-day visit to India perhaps suggests that Beijing attaches some importance to normalising ties with this country in the context of rapid global developments. Though no agreements have been signed during this visit, it appears possible that the Chinese Premier will come to India to return the Indian Prime Minister's official visit to China. Mr. Qian and Mr. I.K. Gujral used the opportunity to review the global and regional developments. It appears that the border questions were touched upon by the two sides in general terms. China has been assured of India's support for Beijing's bid to enter the GATT. Earlier in the 1970s New Delhi played a big part to secure the Chinese entry into the UN. However, Mr. Qian's reference to the "UN decisions" as well as the Simla agreement suggests that Beijing has not modified its position on the Kashmir question. Today's Chinese mood, somewhat conciliatory, may have much to do with the economic and political problems facing the Chinese. And yet the Chinese leader's somewhat cautious reaction to the Kashmir developments would be congenial for providing a durable basis to the bilateral relations between the two countries. During Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in December 1988, the two sides decided to set up a joint working group at the foreign secretary's level to go

into the border issue. The working group was set up after the infructuous eight rounds of talks since 1981 on the disputed borders. At one stage there was even talk of a "time frame" for settling the border question. But given the slow pace of talks—the group has so far met only once in Beijing in July 1989—and the little movement forward in India-China ties since Mr. Gandhi's visit, there is no possibility of a break-through in the near future. The border question is complex and sensitive and the two sides have still been virtually reiterating their known positions. Much unobtrusive work remains to be done to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question.

Iran

Velayati Meets Afghan Mujahidin in Tehran

LD0404185790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The officials in charge of Ansar ol Mahdi division [Lashkar] from the Sunni groups of the Afghan Mojahedin met and conferred with Mr. Velayati, the foreign minister, this morning.

According to the Central News Unit, during that meeting Mowlawi 'Abdol Hay, one of those in charge of the Ansar ol Mahdi division, said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been a place of security and refuge for the oppressed and mojaheds who struggle in the way of God, and the Iranian nations' struggles have always been a model for the Afghan people's Jihad and resistance. Stressing Muslim unity, he said: The common religious and cultural grounds between the two nations of Iran and Afghanistan are the reflections of one soul in two bodies. He stressed the continuation of Afghanistan's holy jihad till the achievement of the final result and added: Afghanistan's Muslim Mojaheds will tolerate all kinds of problems to become victorious against their enemies. Then Mr. Velayati welcomed the Afghan Mojaheds and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes its duty to support all Muslim brothers who struggle in the way of God. Wishing victory to the Afghan Muslim Mojaheds, he called on them to maintain their unity to stop the enemies penetrating among them.

Persian Daily Calls Saddam Statements 'Talk'

LD0404191690 Tehran IRNA in English 1527 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA—"Is Iraq really threatened by Israel and the United States?" asked a Persian daily today, dismissing Saddam Husayn's tall talk as a political gimmick, in which the West and the Zionist regime are also involved.

KEYHAN said that no person with the least common sense will ever believe that Baathist Iraq poses a threat to the Zionist regime.

Pointing out the facts, it said "the question that remains to be asked is what countries during the past decade helped Saddam to remain in power. While the Iraqi forces were attacking the port city of Faw, U.S. gunships bombed Iran's oil platforms."

"As for Israel," noted the daily, "Iraq has been supporting the renegade Michael 'Awn in Lebanon and is fuelling the fire of the current civil war in that country and acting as an ally to the Zionist regime."

KEYHAN was commenting on Saddam Husayn's radio broadcast Monday that "Iraq has binary chemical weapons", whose fire would "eat half of Israel it if tries to wage anything against Iraq."

Piecing together the facts in view of Saddam Husayn's firm ties with the PLO and especially with Israel's two staunch Arab allies Husni Mubarak and Jordan's Husayn, the paper said, "reports of the seizure at London's Heathrow Airport of nuclear triggers destined to Baghdad, and the propaganda which portrayed Iraq as a threat to Israel look as though they were intended for publicity purposes in favour of the Baathist regime."

Earlier today, Iran's English press dismissed Saddam's statements as not to be taken seriously.

The Islamic Republic "pays no heed to such childish pranks" said the KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL, terming it as a new campaign to extract petro-dollars from reactionary Arab heads of state.

The TEHRAN TIMES also thought along similar lines, and said Saddam obtained extensive aid via Jordanian ports in the Gulf of Aqaba "with the acquiescence and green light of the Zionist regime."

The Persian KEYHAN concluded that aside from the propaganda aspects of reports about Saddam's regime earlier this week, "the naked fact is that Baathist Iraq as the Islamic Republic's real enemy continues to occupy Iranian lands" and ever since Tehran accepted the UN Security Council Resolution, Baghdad has been steadily building up its military capacity with Western aid and approval.

Commentary on Iraq's Chemical Arms Claims

LD0404194990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1730 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The recent media sensationalism concerning the failure of Iraq to buy triggers for nuclear bombs, as well as Saddam's own reaction, are among new and interesting topics which unveil many facts.

In this seemingly complicated development, the regime ruling over Iraq has stood against countries that support it in what one may call a news and words warfare. In its

reaction to its failure to acquire nuclear bomb triggers, the Iraqi regime reveals a number of important and yet questionable issues.

Of course, reading from a prepared text, the head of the regime ruling over Iraq utilized various axes to tone down possible international reactions. However, despite such precautions, as is expected, he reveals interesting facts. The unveiling of the fact that the United States and the UK were previously making efforts to arm Iraq with nuclear weapons is among that facts world public opinion has been made aware of during the current episode. So is the fact that the intelligence agents of the United States, the UK, and Israel, in their visits to Baghdad, had encouraged the head of the Iraqi regime to buy enriched uranium.

That issue apart, the confession that Iraq possesses missiles armed with chemical weapons is among important points which, following many years, now make nonsense of all the previous mendacious propaganda, even more so when one realizes that the use of those weapons inside Iraq, especially in the sad events of Halabjah, known as the second Hiroshima, reveal as lies the fresh claims that such weapons are for defense. In fact, the necessary ground for the Iraqi regime to admit explicitly, in the present international atmosphere, to the manufacturing and stockpiling of chemical weapons was prepared at the time when the biggest producers of nuclear weapons aquitted the Iraqi regime of all wrongdoing during the Halabjah events, trying to change the political atmosphere in favor of that regime.

Perhaps during the current sensationalism, the existing hatred in the region against the Iraqi regime would not have been created had the weapons—which the Iraqi regime admits to manufacturing and stockpiling—not previously been used against the innocent people of Iraq and in that regime's aggressive war against Iran. It might then not have brought about the strong reaction of the Iraqi people against the Iraqi regime.

Saddam's confessions that he continues to manufacture and arm his army with chemical weapons will serve to inform world public opinion and independent circles of the validity of the views and assertions of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the fact that Saddam is irresponsible and harbors antihuman intentions. [passage omitted]

Economic Talks With Italy Continue in Rome

NC0504090090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Recorded telephone report by an unidentified correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran reporting from Rome]

[Text] The second round of talks between the Iranian and Italian economic and industrial delegations aimed at achieving a basic agreement in the session of the two countries' joint committee took place last night, in the presence of Mr. Mahluji, our minister of mines and metals, and Mr. Ruggiero, Italian foreign trade minister, at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Rome.

During this round of talks, which was also attended by the head of the ENI [Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi] group—Italy's second largest state group for energy projects—Mr. Mahluji stated that during the first Five-Year Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran more than $130 billion will be invested in our country's economic sectors. He said: We are interested in increasing our scientific, economic, and commercial exchanges with Italy and this cooperation can be a good impetus for all the technical and economic aspects of the two countries.

Pointing out that during the Five-Year Plan our country will be ready for reconstruction, investment in the expansion of industries, and the export of mining products, petrochemical products, and other industrial products, he stated that the reasons for choosing Italy as a good trading partner are its advanced technology, good management, and favorable financial resources. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has extremely rich oil and gas resources, sufficient manpower, and a vast markets inside and around Iran. We think that all these can pave the way for extensive cooperation with Italy's executive groups.

During this meeting, the head of Italy's ENI industrial group welcomed the expansion of commercial relations between Iran and Italy. He expressed readiness to participate in projects envisaged in the Five-Year Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Foreign Trade Minister Ruggiero also expressed his country's readiness to cooperate and described the results of the talks held by the four committees as satisfactory. He added: The talks and programs of the second session of the joint Iranian-Italian committee are extremely extensive and serious. The two countries can expand their industrial, mining, and economic cooperation within the framework of the agreements that have been reached.

It should be recalled that Mr. Mahluji also met with Italy's state participation minister and discussed cooperation in the two countries' fields of interest.

A memorandum of understanding comprising several important industrial and economic projects is to be signed at noon today.

This is the correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Rome.

Velayati Meets DPRK Foreign Ministry Official

LD0404222990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The director general of the DPRK Foreign Ministry in charge of international affairs met with Foreign Minister Velayati today. In their meeting, they discussed issues of interest to the two countries, as well as the

importance of expanding bilateral relations and cooperation in international organizations.

In this meeting, the director general of DPRK Foreign Ministry in charge of international affairs expressed his support for the implementation of UN Resolution 598 and for the maintenance of peace and security in the Persian Gulf. He described the determination of the Iranian people for the reconstruction and renovation of their country as invincible.

Mr. Velayati stressed the importance the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches to its relations with the DPRK, and emphasized the unanimity of views between the two countries in international organizations.

Karrubi Talks With Omani Ambassador to Tehran

LD0404212290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Oman's ambassador to Tehran met today with Mr. Karrubi, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. This meeting was also attended by our country's director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of the Persian Gulf. Oman's ambassador, expressing his felicitations on the occasion of the start of the holy month of Ramadan and the new year, submitted a report on the friendly relations between our two countries, the transfer of Jewish emigrants to occupied Palestine, and issues regarding the teaching of Islamic sciences in his country.

Mr. Karrubi, referring to the mutual desire of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand its relations with Muslim countries, especially Oman, said: We express our sincere thanks for the wise and enlightened attitude of Oman's officials toward the events which have taken place in recent years in the region. The role of Oman as a member of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council in solving the problems of the region is appreciated.

Referring to the efforts of world arrogance in creating problems in Islamic societies, and the creation of dissention among them, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Asembly said: The imam, may his soul be sanctified, took important steps toward the unification of the Islamic ummah, and always sought to achieve this holy goal, because Muslims possess a great and strong power. Yet, at the same time, they are faced with conspiracies against Islam. Mr. Karrubi described the recent decision of the U.S. Congress in recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionists, and on the transfer of Jewish emigrants to Israel as examples of these conspiracies, and said: These conspiracies can be foiled only through solidarity, unity, and fraternity of Muslims.

New Satellite TV Transmitter Installed

LD0404222590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Equipping and inaugurating a satellite television transmitter in Nahavand's Deh Heydar village has enabled another 6,000 of that region's village population to view the programs of the vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran's first channel. The project has been implemented through efforts made by the maintenance and repair unit of television and FM transmitters of the Zahedan centre and the assistance of Deh Heydar's inhabitants.

With the commissioning of the transmitting station, the inhabitants of Deh Heydar and a number of surrounding villages are able to view the programs of the vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran's first channel on channel 10 of their television sets.

Microwave System Expands to West Azerbaijan

NC0504090590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] In order to further facilitate telephone communications in West Azerbaijan, an advanced microwave system became operational yesterday in northern West Azerbaijan province.

IRNA reports that the managing director of the West Azerbaijan Telecommunications Company stated that with the expansion of the microwave system in the north of West Azerbaijan, telephone lines in the Poldasht and Shut districts in Maku will increase by about 70 percent. With the increase in the number of intercity lines in the telecommunication centers of Poldasht and Shut, our compatriots and telephone subscribers can call Poldasht and Shut by dialing 04632 and 04633 respectively.

*Report on 11, 12 Mar 90 Majles Sessions

90AS0001A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Mar 90 pp 5, 6, 15

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Division:

The Majles held an open session yesterday morning, afternoon, and evening. In this session, following the recitation of verses from the Koran, the pre-agenda speakers spoke, then the represeniatives' memos to the executive officials of the country were read, and the Majles went into session.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the only item on the agenda was the examination of the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1990] national budget law.

Below, you will read the pre-agenda speeches and the details of the discussions.

Dr. 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, Representative of the People of Karaj

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Dr. 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, the representative of the people of Karaj. First, he thanked various strata of the people for their expansive participation in the mid-term elections and continued:

As the noble nation knows, under the present conditions of the revolution, the issue of construction as a revolutionary and patriotic duty is conferred on every individual in the nation, particularly on the planners and policy makers. Given the abundant resources, including the intelligence, talent, experience, and capability of the people and their interest, generosity, and self-sacrifice in regard to the revolution and the country; the expansive, varied, and underground resources; the potential resources in the agricultural sector; and most importantly the blessings of God on this oppressed, faithful, and resistent nation, if we avoid wasting time, expedite our decisions and solutions and stop the hand of the superpowers who cannot tolerate the existence of a self-made, faithful, and model nation for the oppressed nations, God willing, we will be able to prepare the grounds for repairing all the destruction and ensure the blossoming of the economy and the potential talents of the country.

Dr. Zali continued: In order to succeed in implementing the plan, the active presence, continued general cooperation and support of the various strata of the people, particularly the Hezbollah nation, are essential. For this reason, it is necessary to deal sincerely with the people and avoid the expression of multiple views or announcing programs that are not able to be implemented and prepare the grounds for preserving the absolute trust and confidence of the people in the planners and all the compassionate and self-sacrificing servants. We must warn the people more than ever before of the vastness, variety, and complexity of the ruse of the enemies of humanity and, by acquainting them with the tricks of global oppression, strengthen the spirit of patience, resistance, hard work, self-sacrifice, and frugality in them. For that group of problems of the people the solution for which is within the power of the country and the framework of the duties and tasks of the officials and servants, immediate solutions must be found. It is necessary that, in any way possible, the grounds for making use of the experience, the intellectual capabilities, and the views of the people who are interested in the revolution and the country be prepared in connection with planning and providing solutions to eliminate the problems. And in terms of method, we must deal with the shortcomings and violations in order for all committed forces and the various strata of the people to participate in reconstruction.

He added: Because the training of manpower is considered the most important action in the growth of the movement, it is necessary that in giving direction to the programs, special attention be paid to educational issues on all elementary, intermediate, and university levels and that special priority be given to general, technical, and professional education as well as devising programs to strengthen this generation of the society. Overall steps must be taken to reduce the problems of the educational centers and eliminate shortcomings. Moreover, the total potential of all the organizations and establishments, the mass media, and the vast capability of the people must be utilized to increase the technical knowledge and ability of the employees in all affairs. Gradually, the continuation or beginning of work in all units and service, production, and executive jobs must be based on the passing of training courses or acquiring information and developing needed skills. In order to increase motivation in individuals to improve methods, decisions must be made in regard to carrying out the duties conferred.

Then, referring to the issue of the rapid population increase in the country, the profuse problems during the revolution and the remaining effects of the misguided trend of economic and social development in the past, the speaker emphasized: The grounds for achieving economic growth up to at least twice the rate of the population growth must be provided. If the course of the people's movement were to become smooth through a revision of policies, providing job opportunities, supporting production and producers, facilitating education, clarifying the procedures for the people's participation and reducing bureaucratic red tape, we would be able to make use of the expansive capabilities and activities of the faithful people who fortunately comprise the unquestioned majority of the country's population. In this regard, it is necessary that, in addition to other steps, the boundaries of the duties of the government and the activities of the non-governmental sector and the grounds for the expansion of activities and investments by the people and especially employing the small but vast capabilities and capital of the oppressed masses be clarified more than they were in the past. Workers, farmers, and government employers must be supported if their activities are to increase. If the agricultural problems are dealt with comprehensively, this great economic sector with its potential and the existence of faithful, hard-working, and undemanding forces will have a special role in providing for the needs of the people, establishing social equity and justice, and in eliminating many other pressing problems in the country.

He also emphasized: In order to make better use of the capabilities of government employees, it is necessary for solutions to be quickly devised in any way possible to reduce the problems of the employees, to prepare the grounds to strengthen the administrative organizations, to prevent the duplication and to avoid dividing experts and technicians in similar units and administrative organizations. Through promoting the society's movement towards scientific handling of issues and avoiding impractical slogans, the grounds for hope and the increased activities of the technical cadre must be prepared.

Also, stating that the experience and capability gained during the war can be the grounds for carrying out an expansive movement to repair the destruction and implement a developmental project on a vast level, Dr. Zali added: We can make use of many of the technical resources and capabilities that exist in the army, the Guards Corps, and the Construction Jihad simultaneous

with their combat readiness in planning and implementing fundamental tasks. Devising implemental methods and organizing the mobilization and combative forces, creating cooperatives to expand production and service activities, and starting an expansive, coordinated movement along with providing the resources for the work can pave the way to utilizing the potentially large resources of the country.

He pointed out: Considering the present limitations of the country, it is necessary to revise the country's consumer model as much as possible. In particular, in regard to imported products and manufactured goods, maximum savings are vital, and the ambitious policies to which the present resources of the country cannot respond must be avoided. If we want to remain a free nation and, God willing, be a model to other oppressed nations, we have no choice but to tighten our belts in order to reconstruct the country, achieve economic independence and, with the same determination we enjoyed under the war conditions and with the ability, patience and resistance of the faithful people of our country in connection with reconstruction and economic development, too, by accepting certain hardships, prepare the grounds to be grateful to God for His kindness. Obviously, by emphasizing the preservation of our values we can also use the cooperation of many other countries as well to achieve the revolutionary goals of our country.

Karim Malek-Asa, Representative of the People of Malavi

Mr. Malek-Asa, the representative of the people of Malavi, was the second pre-agenda speaker. He offered congratulations on the blessed birthday of the guardian of the age, and, referring to the great march of the people on God's day, 11 February, he said: On God's day, 11 February, our people in their great movement, in the first march since the death of the imam and the great architect of the revolution, showed that in order to achieve the goals of the revolution and prove the imam's path, they are on the scene with an iron will. He added: Global oppression headed by the great Satan, the world-devouring United States, was so puzzled and stunned by this roaring flood that for several days its propaganda organs could make no comment about it. It was trying to find or create a motivation to neutralize the effects of the unity of the nation that follows the path of the imam and the true offspring of rare Mohammadan Islam. For this reason, they blew out of proportion small, ordinary issues in their propaganda against us. Through such actions, they wanted firstly to repair the deadly blow they had received as a result of the march on 11 February by declaring the support of the million-strong masses of the people for the path of the imam and endorsing their great leader and secondly, to energize the homeless and bankrupt counterrevolutionaries who are engaged in spying, fabricating lies, and distorting the facts in those countries and have now become disappointed and are becoming more despairing every day.

In another part of his speech, the speaker added: The politically bankrupt individuals, the heathen mini-groups, the malcontents, the disuniters, the monopolists, and those with false ideas must know that the path of the imam, the clear line of the imam, his bejeweled words, and the divine political will and testament of that great and immortal leader are uttered today by his sincere offspring and student, who is the guardian of the whole Islamic world, and obedience to him, similar to obedience to the imam, the infallible imams, the messenger of God and the prophets of God is obligatory to every Muslim individual. Such a caravan with such a competent leader will continue the clear path of the imam, and not the slightest harm will come to them.

In another part of his speech, the speaker spoke on the principle of velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] and said: The principle of velayat-e faqih is a thread that connects the whole Islamic world and all the followers of the path of pure Mohammadan Islam to God. On God's day, 11 February, they declared this sacred goal to the enemy with the slogan that the imam's line is our stronghold and Khamene'i is our leader.

In regard to Resolution 598, he said: Now that, with a new initiative by the UN secretary general, the negotiations concerning the implementation of Resolution 598 will begin after a long delay, we ask all the countries of the world to prevent the disruptive actions of Iraq by imposing pressure and to prepare the grounds for the implementation of the mandates of the resolution.

Condemning the slaughter of Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir, he asked the international assemblies and Islamic countries to condemn the government of India for this slaughter.

Continuing, the speaker pointed out: I find it necessary in regard to eliminating the shortcomings in the tribal regions and the urgent need to pay attention to these regions, which are the living examples of the barefooted, the oppressed, and the ghetto dwellers, in order to call to the attention of the honorable representatives, to continue my speech with a reference to the divine political will and testament of the imam of the people concerning attention to the oppressed.

"I tell all to strive for the welfare of the oppressed classes because your salvation in this and the next world is in attending to the oppressed of the society, who have suffered during the history of monarchical injustice and feudalism. It would be nice if the wealthy classes would voluntarily provide housing and the needs of the ghetto dwellers. You can be sure that such will bring salvation in this and the next world. It is unfair for one person to be homeless while another has many apartments."

Thanking and praising the government for its 11 years of efforts despite the imposed war, economic embargo, and the conspiracies of global oppressors, he added: I thank the president on behalf of the representatives of the oppressed regions for his special attention to the elimination of deprivation, the attainment of social justice,

and making up for the lack of attention paid to the development of the oppressed regions of the country, and for taking steps to establish the office of the affairs of the oppressed regions of the country, and for appointing to this office a compassionate, committed, and sincere individual who is familiar with our pains, that is, brother Besharati. The speaker added: It is necessary to mention that during this brief period, with the persistent activities of the above-mentioned office, the necessary information in regard to the shortcomings has been compiled at the level of ministries and provinces and attention paid to the elimination of shortcomings. With the continuous work of the oppressed regions, the assembly of the representatives of the oppressed regions, and the cooperation of the Plan and Budget Committee, in the five-year plan, Notes Five and Six have been ratified to compensate for the lack of development and the elimination of shortcomings. He said: In attaining the goals set to eliminate the shortcomings in 212 oppressed districts of the country, funds have been allocated in many of the notes of the 1369 budget. While we thank the Plan and Budget Committee, we believe that the funds are insufficient.

With regard to constructive proposals to eliminate shortcomings and carry out social justice, the speaker then asked the representatives of the Majles firstly to mention in the note that funds should be distributed fairly among the oppressed districts and, secondly, that the national office of regional affairs be conferred with supervision over the proper implementation of the projects and the spending of the funds in the oppressed regions of the country. In regard to the elimination of tribal problems, Mr. Malek-Asa said: Although the tribes were most significantly economically dependent, they are a productive stratum, keeping 24 heads of livestock annually. If the welfare problems of this oppressed and hard-working stratum which comprises more than a million people are eliminated, they will save the country from dependency in terms of red meat and livestock products. In regard to the limited partnership companies, he said: I thank and praise KEYHAN newspaper for its numerous articles on the nature and operation of limited partnership companies. Hopefully, by devising a law, the government and the Majles will be able to control such destructive economic activities within a legislative framework and to deal with such activities as those companies and establishments that resort to Islamic terminology and place merchandise under their control every day in order to suck the life out of the society and by making huge purchases of a vital item, fix the prices and pocket huge profits without paying taxes, thus inflicting great harm on the national economy.

The speaker continued: It must be clarified where those limited partnership companies—which in one transaction alone buy a shipment of fabric at 1 billion tomans and sell it for 3 billion tomans, and another one who buys his daughter a 35-million-toman house, and another still whose wife's jewelry alone is worth more than 120 million tomans—gain such profits. Could one gain such profits through any other means than hoarding, price hiking, evading the tax laws, creating economic disturbances, and ultimately disrupting the economic system of the country?

He asked the honorable president and the ministers emphatically not to deal reluctantly with the Hezbollah, faithful, committed, and mobilization forces and the grand families of the martyrs and self-sacrificers of the battlefields of martyrdom at the level of ministries, factories, banks, and government establishments, and asked the government to pay sufficient attention to these issues.

Thanking the assembly to determine the interests of the regime for approving 12 articles of the labor law, he asked the assembly to give final approval to the labor law as swiftly as possible, even if to do so would require extra meetings, and thus make the workers happy.

In conclusion, he praised and thanked the honorable representative of the religious guardians, the governor-general, and the executive cadre of Lorestan Province for their unity and cooperation.

Mohammad Qomi, Representative of the People of Varamin

The third and final speaker was Mr. Mohammad Qomi, the representative of the people of Varamin, who celebrated the 15th of Sha'ban [the eighth month of the Arabic lunar year], offering congratulations to the Islamic nation and the followers of religious guardianship and the imamate on the birthday of Imam Mahdi, and said: The elimination of those who truly await his holiness Mahdi, the Hezbollah and expert forces, is a dangerous threat to the future of the revolution. Bringing in different, liberal forces of the Hojjatiyyeh [argumentative] group, some of whom have undesirable political backgrounds, which in the words of the imam—may he rest in paradise—are considered bothersome to the revolution, is no different that if we were still suffering from their few months of transitional government, and we see how their teeth cut off the forces faithful to the revolution given the slightest opportunity. In the past few months, we have witnessed that in the executive and sensitive positions in the Ministries of Health and Treatment, Economic Affairs and Finance, Mines and Metals, and Education, the committed and expert forces who have suffered and grown in the bloody cradle of the revolution have been removed in the worst manner from their positions, even when they are experts in their specialized fields, and instead those who are put in charge are either supporters of the Hojjatiyyeh, or indifferent or have lost their hearts to the West. In a brief comparison, the truth becomes clear to the officials. Who were those who made a show of the people and the imam in the streets of Tehran and other cities on 11 February 1990 and made the United States tremble? From which classes were they? They were none other than the combatants, the mobilization forces, the martyrs, the prisoners and those who were missing in action,

the wounded, those who have tasted bitter poverty and hunger, the fighting worshippers and the oppressed, in one word, the Hezbollah, that is, those who are trusted and are the foundation of the revolution.

Mr. Qomi then referred in another part of his speech to the telephone prank which illustrates the weakness of the criminal United States intelligence organization and said: Once again, following our imam, we say that relations with the United States are like relations between the wolf and the ewe. We shall not allow anyone to joke around with our Islamic ideals. I ask the honorable president to issue strict instructions to the Ministry of Information to investigate the matter carefully, and, if anyone has made this telephone call from Iran intending to joke around with the prestige of this nation, to bring him before the Islamic nation. Of course, I think it unlikely for anyone to have dared such an action. I repeat for those who even dream of such a thing that our brave nation shall not forgive any offense in this regard.

The honorable representatives note that when the election file of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi, this old friend of the imam, was objected to, the Western mass media and the press delighted in the fact that for whatever reason the case of one of the friends of the imam was referred to the investigation committee in the Majles. Of course, I am beneath being able to introduce Mr. Mohtashemi, but I will repeat the words of the imam.

He added: Mr. Mohtashemi is a person who was in the embassies of the Islamic Republic for five years in Syria and Lebanon and strengthened our foreign policy. He was the person who strengthened the faithful, revolutionary, and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon, using all his efforts to fight global oppression and making the oppressors angry. He is the person whom the imam considered a friend and as one possessing political awareness. Consider how beautiful it was when he was in the hospital bed and the global oppressors had plotted to martyr him. His hand was severed and he became a self-sacrificer for the revolution. In the hospital bed, he said: "By God, may they cut off my right hand if I ever defend what is impure." [preceding quote in Arabic] And how beautifully, in what beautiful words, the imam responded. We are proud to have such a personality, a person who is familiar with the thoughts and ideals of the imam, a person who has used his chest as a shield on all the fronts for the sake of the imam and has always in various scenes worked for the imam. His presence is a source of pride for us in the Majles and not the presence of those who may be indifferent or have not invested in our revolution. For this reason, I tell my brothers to take heed not to make the enemies of Islam happy with some of their actions and not to question the old and sincere friends of the imam.

Also, in connection with Security Council Resolution 598, he said: In any case, we offered so many martyrs, self-sacrificers, prisoners, and wounded and disabled people to the revolution. We even have prisoners who have been in Iraqi jails for eight or nine years. There are families who have offered several martyrs to the revolution in order to preserve the honor of the ideals of the imam and the values that he spoke of. Deviation from Resolution 598 and the 1975 treaty is deviation from the ideals of the imam, to which the Islamic nation and those who have invested in the revolution will never agree, and certainly our officials will not agree. The great leader of the revolution, too, spoke on this matter and asked that the ideals of the imam be achieved.

Here I tell the officials at the negotiation table to pay no attention whatsoever to the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam and know resolutely that the Islamic nation continues to be on the scene to defend Islam and Islamic values, and as in the past, you can count on the mobilization forces and the 20-million-large army of the Islamic nation. If the enemies of Islam and the criminal Saddam intend to create problems for us once again, God willing, this nation will punish him for his actions.

In regard to the issue of the Hajj pilgrimage, he said: We have no opposition to the Hajj pilgrimage in principle. We support the Hajj pilgrimage and consider it one of the politico-worship foundations of Islam. But we know that during the bloody Hajj pilgrimage, in the imam's words, the heart of the prophets broke, and the Islamic nation went into mourning. These criminal Wahabis commit treason in the name of the servants of the shrines against our sacred beliefs and ignore our sacred beliefs. Wahabism is making an effort in the farthest regions of the world against the Islamic revolution. We must remember that the Hajj pilgrimage is like a great Islamic congregation. This pilgrimage will be worthwhile to us when we are able to implement our Islamic and humane ideals there and, God willing, stop the control of the Wahabis so that this Abraham's Hajj pilgrimage can be performed magnificently. Beware of King Qabus or anyone else mediating as political middlemen and ignore the blood of the martyrs of the bloody pilgrimage to holy Mecca.

In conclusion, the representative of Varamin referred to the budget issue and the Five-Year Plan and emphasized education, with special attention to elementary and high-school teachers.

Details of the Discussion

The only item on the agenda of the Majles yesterday was an examination of the report of the Plan and Budget Committee in regard to the 1369 national budget bill. About this bill, Mr. Ghaffari, the spokesman of the Plan and Budget Committee, provided explanations, which are summarized below.

Explanation of the Committee Spokesman

In the beginning of his speech, Mr. Ghaffari stated as the characteristics of an ideal budget, "scheduling," "actual figures," "avoiding hiding and fabricating figures," "providing and protecting national interests," and "being anti-inflationary" and said: In our Islamic country, the budget must be anti-inflationary and

address the interests of the oppressed. The ratio of the growth of the current and developmental expenditures must be based on the growth of the developmental investments and reduce the current budgets as much as possible. The economy must be gradually changed from its reliance on oil exports at a reasonable and logical rate of growth and move towards providing the government expenditures from non-petroleum exports and other revenues. Needy regions and particularly the oppressed regions must be given particular attention and priority. Agriculture must retain its special priority. Alongside attention to the daily bread and food of the people, it must also engage in cultural and religious matters rather than being so devoted to the living conditions that it neglects culture, nor should it become so cultural that it neglects bread, water, security, and treatment of the people.

He said: In the discussions on the national revenues of the general budget still there continues to be an unacceptable reliance on oil resources. We must, God willing, free ourselves from this dependence and reliance.

Referring to the issue of taxes, he said: Part of the major revenues of every country is comprised of sales and income taxes. The tax system of the country is not desirable as it is, with the major part of the national taxes collected from salaries of people whose living conditions are clear to us. The pressure they suffer due to fixed salaries and generally unstable conditions is understandable. Compared to those who have relative financial security, the amount of taxes they pay is seriously tragic.

In this connection, he gave some examples and said: One person had paid 60,000 tomans in taxes. Then there was an audit, and it became clear that he should have paid 12 million tomans, whereas he had claimed that he owed only 60,000 tomans. One store stated that it had 195,000 rials in sales, and when it was randomly audited, it was found that it had made 1,179,804,000 rials in sales. A grocery store which has paid 150,000 tomans in taxes in the past five years was audited in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988]. According to the owner's own books, he had had 2 billion tomans in sales, for which he should have paid 90 million tomans. During the past nine years, he had paid 150,000 tomans in taxes, whereas the taxes for his last year alone should have been 90 million tomans. Hence, if we operate this country on the basis of records and documents, we do not need a penny of the oil money, and we can manage the country with tax revenues.

In another part of his explanation, the spokesman of the Plan and Budget Committee, stating that more than 58 to 60 percent of the national budget is made up of the budget of the government companies, said:

Of the total of 7,445 billion rials in operations in the government companies, only 111 billion rials come to the government for taxes and profit sharing. This figure compared to the operation by government companies is only 1.5 percent, which is by no means acceptable to us. For me, as a representative of the government and a member of the Plan and Budget Committee, it is not acceptable at all.

In the same connection, he pointed out: This issue shows that government companies are poorly managed, and there is certainly something wrong. Hence, we remind the government seriously that it is obliged to pay full attention to the budget of the government companies as a major component of the national budget. The government must deal appropriately with the managers of the companies who are in violation. Then referring to the importance of supervision by the Majles, he said: You must consider the supervision of the Majles as a calculated matter and value it. If the Majles believes that it must have supervision in the organizations, such supervision will be in the interest of the country. If you want stability and permanence for the country and if you want to find the financial situation of the country in a defendable form, allow and agree to the Majles as a supervisory organization to supervise well. You should know it will not be to your detriment but to your advantage. Do not shout so many slogans about leaving you be. We agree to your having a free hand, but you should allow the Majles to supervise in order to know what is going on in the country.

He then continued his explanations and said:

For the first time, export foreign currency has been included in the government budget, and we have included it within the framework of the five-year plan. We should find out by the end of the year how much foreign currency has been spent or gained and how much has not been used. Also, in order to show support for the policy by the Central Bank of creating commitment for the future years, we have allowed $54,000 million in the 1369 budget in five sections. For the first time this year, in the purchasing council that exists we have appointed two Majles representatives as supervisors in order to act in a timely manner and in accordance with what has been decided in regard to purchases. In this committee, the issue of purchasing and necessarily the issues of the ports, transportation, and identification of necessary resources for facilitating imports and distribution and so on must be examined.

Continuing his speech, he referred to dividing foreign currency on the basis of various chapters and organizations and added: For the first time this year in the Plan and Budget Committee, we determined the foreign currency for the developmental and current sectors so that foreign currency would not move towards current expenditures, and this action supports investment in and development of the country.

In another part of his speech, stating that we have committed ourselves to carrying out the Five-Year Plan, he said: The grand leader said, "The plan is valuable, and acting accordingly is valuable, but acting against it is not valuable." If we truly are obedient and if we accept velayat-e faqih, we must be steadfast in not acting

outside what we have ratified. We pledged together and the Plan and Budget Committee voted several times. Not even one person voted to allow us to do anything outside the Five-Year Plan.

The spokesman of the committee considered discussing the situation of the government companies urgent and said: On this basis, Note 37 was placed in the budget bill so that starting next year, God willing, it will be discussed fully.

In continuation, he referred to the omission of some of the miscellaneous lines and said: Considering that this year the two Ministries of the Guards Corps and Defense have changed into the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, in Note 9, we coordinated the defense situation of the country with many other issues and conferred the accounting to the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics.

In regard to Note 13, he said: I tell you seriously not to allow the country to become the junk market for the machinery of bankrupt and defunct companies. You must allow the domestic and national industries of your own country to be saved from destruction and bankruptcy. Hence, in this note, we have one way or another prohibited the entry of vehicles.

In connection with the budget outside the accounting law of the organizations, the spokesman of the committee said: I tell you for your own sake that the organizations have used money outside the accounting law to purchase Land Rovers and patrol Nissans at more than two million tomans. We opposed this action and said that this budget should be used solely to the extent needed to do the job.

Mr. Hadi Ghaffari, the spokesman of the Plan and Budget Committee, termed Note 22 of the government hidden borrowing and said: We omitted this note. Hidden monies and false reports must be avoided. We made up for the hidden borrowing in the lines and prevented it.

Qazizadeh-Hashemi (the First Opponent)

Following the statements of the spokesman of the Plan and Budget Committee, Mr. Qazizadeh-Hashemi spoke as the first opponent and said: The ratification of the budget must not be merely a ratification of figures and numbers. Rather, these figures must reflect the policies and programs devised within the framework of the first economic, social, and cultural plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran because, in fact, the budget is the mirror of all the goals, duties, and operations of the government.

He called the 1369 budget inflationary and said: Based on the bill presented by the government, 1,439 billion rials in borrowing have been proposed to compensate for the revenues by making use of domestic loans, of which the committee has approved 1,431 billion rials. This figure, compared to a similar one in the 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] ratified budget, which was 1,015 billion rials, marks an increase of at least 16 billion rials, which will result in increased inflation and pressure on the backs of the oppressed and disadvantaged of the society.

Continuing, he referred to the major budget distribution indices on the basis of the needs of regions and provinces and said: The vast Province of Khorasan, with an average figure of 12.71 percent of the fair distribution indices of the total national budget, should have the most advantage. In 1368, 12.71 percent of the total current and developmental budget of the country had to be allocated to the Province of Khorasan. In the developmental budget, five percent and in the current budget, 3.61 percent less than its actual share has been allotted to it. On the other hand, Tehran, its actual share of the total resources and budget of the country being 5.57 percent, has been allotted 13.73 percent of the current budget and 6.1 percent of the developmental budget. Considering that 34.72 percent of all the hospital beds, 25.33 percent of all treatment establishments, 24.74 percent of working physicians, and 23.85 percent of all large industrial workshops in the country are located in the Province of Tehran, certainly as long as the resources and the budget of the country are distributed in this unfair form, we cannot expect to establish social justice and prevent the migration of people from the oppressed regions and villages to the large cities. The 1369 proposed bill does not reflect fair distribution to the provincial capitals.

He said: If the volume of the budget of government companies is added under these circumstances to the general budget of the government in addition to the financial operations of a large sector under government control, which is not reflected in the national budget in its present form, this total, as the general budget of the government shows, will reflect about 60 percent of the gross national product. Therefore, the importance of a budget system devised with appropriate planning is obvious. Nevertheless, for three-quarters of a century, preparing and writing a budget has been carried out in Iran on the basis of the legal financial systems customary in the countries with parliaments and which acknowledge the principle of the separation of branches. Nevertheless, still, in general, budgeting is one of the major problems of the country. Although issues and problems concerning budget preparation in Iran can be examined from various perspectives in terms of the political, social, and economic position of the government, it is more important to deal in principle with issues related to the quality and structure of the budget and the administration and organization of the government.

In another part of his speech, he said: Certainly one of the factors in the successful implementation of the economic and social development of our country is the change in the budgeting system of the country, which the 1369 budget does not reflect.

He also referred to the views on managing the national economy at the beginning of the victory of the revolution

and said: One point of view was that the revenues obtained from the sale of oil be spent on the welfare of the people and their needs, and if anything were left, it should to be used for investments. A second viewpoint held that the petro-dollars be used exclusively on fundamental developmental projects, that our society must tolerate hardships for a few years, and that the people should receive many of their necessary goods in rations so that we will be able to strengthen the economic foundations. Note that, neither at that time nor today, did or does anyone believe that an Islamic society need suffer. No one said that having proper housing, health and treatment, green orchards, freezers, dishwashers, and the comforts of life is bad. No one supported the belief that one should abandon one's body like an ascetic so that one does not even need a shirt. The only question was whether we should save the society from a single-product economy first and then go after comfort, or whether we should first make sure that people are comfortable, in which case, you would lose the people [as published] and then go about reforming the economic structure. Those who supported the argument of comfort first said, we have dollars today; there is no reason to make it hard on the people and make them skeptical about the regime. But if we have no foreign currency one day, there is no other way, and the people will tolerate it. The conspiracy of the enemy's imposed war caused the followers of these two viewpoints to join. In other words, due to the decrease in the foreign currency revenues, those who held the first viewpoint, that is, those who supported the people's comfort, realized that there is no other way except to change the economic structure, fight waste, change the consumer model, and accept the shortages or shortcomings in order to get through this stage. We must make sure at this new and sensitive stage of the Islamic revolution that the past experiences are not repeated.

Harati (in Support)

The first supporter of the budget bill was Mr. Harati, the representative of the people of Sabzevar, who spoke on the eight characteristics of the opponents of the budget over the past eight years and said:

The main points of the opponents of the budget are precisely these eight characteristics that I will mention: (1) The budget does not follow a program; (2) less attention is paid to the oppressed and villagers; (3) current expenditures are increasing; (4) the developmental budget is decreasing; (5) insufficient attention is paid to agriculture; (6) the creation of jobs has not been given a special place in the budget; (7) there is no plan for the great volume of cash flow; and (8) the budget causes inflation and high prices. These are the eight points that have been raised by opponents over the past 10 years, during which time we had no program. But I believe that these eight points have no place in this year's budget, unless the gentlemen want to raise a series of new and innovative points.

Then, stating that the budget bill has been prepared in keeping with the goals and plans and within the ceiling of the current developmental and foreign currency expenditure budgets, he said:

We cannot just oppose the budget per se. Most opposition is, in fact, superficial. We are no longer without a program, suffering from routine and moving without a direction. This year, we are acting in line with a series of specified goals.

Mr. Harati then added: The statistics and operation of the 1368 budget indicate that we reached those goals. Non-oil exports in 1368 increased 20.3 percent; the developmental budget, 49 percent; oil revenues, 7.4 percent; and developmental revenues, 59.1 percent. Inflation in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1990] was 28.7 percent, and reached 19.7 percent; in other words, it decreased by 10 percent [as published]. Hence, the 1368 budget was moving on the track of the Five-Year Plan. We have also increased the government revenues compared to 1368 in the program by 26 percent, a major figure of it being the tax revenues that we projected at 1,623.7 billion rials. These tax revenues increased from 4.5 to 5.5 percent of the GNP, that is, 1 percent. And I hope at the end of the Five-Year Plan, God willing, we will reach the goal of eight percent.

He then referred to the characteristics of this bill concerning the increase in developmental expenditures and said:

In the developmental expenditures, the projected rate of the operations in 1368 indicates an increase of 60.2 percent, and this increase in the developmental budget will make it possible for us to make many new investments and complete incomplete plans. It will be a great source of achievement to have accepted the current expenditures at their maximum and raised the developmental expenditures very high in order to achieve the goals of the program.

The member of the Plan and Budget Committee referred to the changes in the budget of the government companies and said: The government companies will have a growth of 36 percent over last year. We controlled their budget in three areas. First, we said we cannot accept a company that has losses. Because companies are economic projects, they must be profitable. But, if they do have loses and work along with a series of needed social services of the government, they will be approved to receive subsidies. Otherwise, we will not accept them.

The second point is that we created a council under the supervision of the president to hold bimonthly meetings and extend its supervision over the budget of government companies. The third point is that some of the government companies, in order to avoid paying the government its profit share and the taxes of the company, fabricated a series of figures and numbers and paid accordingly, thus decreasing the government profit share and taxes entering the treasury. We put a stop to it and pointed out that government companies have included

in their bylaws that they have the authority to make changes in their programs in the course of the year, but they are by no means allowed to make plans to decrease taxes and government profit sharing.

He pointed out that in this year's budget bill, funds for the Martyr Raja'i project and projects under the auspices of the imam's emergency committee and the Martyrs Foundation will increase.

Mr. Harati then referred to the creation of jobs and said: You are aware that in the five-year plan, you agreed to the creation of 400,000 new jobs annually in the country. That plan remains in effect, and we have projected these new jobs, considering the growth in agriculture and the growth that we have seen in industry. As Note Three was a job-creating note in the country, we increased its ceiling from 90 billion rials last year to 150 billion rials (60 percent).

He also referred to the three plans for decreasing the huge volume of cash flow included in the budget and said:

(1) The first way is to increase taxes; (2) second is to direct investments towards productive programs and make an effort, rather than allowing these programs to cause a tragedy in the distribution channel, to create prosperity in the production channel. Hence, we allotted about 60 percent of the developmental planning and production budgets to non-governmental sectors. (3) The third plan is to reduce the budget deficit so that at the end of the five-year plan, it reaches zero and does not by any means go over the borrowing ceiling projected by the government in the Five-Year Plan.

In another part of his speech, the representative of Sabzevar added: Unfortunately, with the $650 million that has been placed at the disposal of producers, still the raw materials have not reached the country. We hope that when these items arrive in the first six months of next year, God willing, with the increase in production throughout the country, we will witness a relatively desirable decrease in prices, which can play a vital role in reducing high prices and inflation.

In conclusion, he pointed out: If you look at the notes you shall see that we have provided you with a relatively comprehensive foreign currency program, and we proudly announce that in the foreign currency budget we offered you, not one dollar is to be borrowed.

Panahandeh (Opponent)

As the second opponent, Mr. Panahandeh said: We are happy that this year's budget is supposedly devised on the basis of a plan, even though in my opinion in many areas this is not so. One of my questions is whether these programs are viewed in terms of districts or regions. Take a look at what the interests of the entire country are and how much should be invested in every district.

Secondly, concerning the current expenditures, of which Mr. Harati said there is no increase, according to an estimate made by the accounting office, we have a 29 percent increase in current expenditures, whereas about half of our national budget is accounted for through borrowing. How do you expect us to be successful in implementing the plan when we borrow and spend it on current affairs? Is this possible? Did we not ratify that the annual budget be planned in such a way that by the end of the Five-Year Plan borrowing reach zero? My question is, How much did you reduce borrowing in the 1369 plan, to complete it in the next four years and bring it to zero by the end of the plan? The 1369 budget includes 1,349 billion rials in borrowing, which is an increase of 42 percent compared to 1368. Why have we on the one hand ratified the plan and on the other put so much pressure on the system?

He said: One thing that we have side-stepped a great deal in the plan is reform of the administrative system. One principle of the Five-Year Plan is that a balance be created between the salaries and benefits of government employees with consideration for inflation in order to prevent the reduction in their purchasing power through granting non-cash aid, provided the needed funds are reflected in the annual budget. My question is, Where in the 1369 budget have you stated this important issue?

Another problem in the 1369 budget is that the projected taxes are beyond the capability of the taxpayers to pay. Collection of them, in my opinion, is impossible. And Islamic justice has not been observed in this area. The taxes that we must collect are in the pockets of the wealthy, the rich, and the large companies, about most of whom we know nothing. Let the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance go and collect it from them. But taking taxes from the oppressed strata who are needy even in terms of buying the essentials of life will not solve any problems. You are dreaming if you expect to calculate and collect these taxes.

Continuing, he referred to the lack of control over the use of the budget in the government organizations and said: There is much traveling abroad, and seminars are held, and it is unclear who is in control and who is accountable for such waste. The ministries and organizations publish books daily. They have specialized newspapers and private bulletins, while at the same time the important paper needed for our schools comes from other countries. I ask the president, on whom the people have rightfully set their hopes, to prevent such excesses in any way possible.

Ruhani-Nia (supporting)

Mr. Ruhani-Nia supported the 1369 budget bill and mentioned in his speech this year's budget moving within the framework of the Five-Year Plan. He said: When the honorable Majles has ratified the framework of the Five-Year Plan, we must in practice move within that framework, and we cannot deviate from it. What we

can do is see what is stated in it and whether or not it is one-fifth of the five-year budget plan.

He continued: Your budget is ideal when your administrative, judicial, cultural, and economic system are ideal. How do you expect your budget to be ideal when you agree that many other areas are not only not ideal but paralyzed or crippled?

He also said: We lived in a day when we had to scrape the bottoms of our warehouses to provide the daily flour for bakers. And now, for the first time, the Islamic Republic wants to move on the basis of an organized plan. To be fair, this budget which has been devised despite the shortages and limited resources seems very appropriate. In regard to unemployment, he said: We do not claim that we will be able to employ all the unemployed people in the country with this year's plan. We say that we are moving in the right direction. He said: We have not forgotten that in the past years the total revenues of our government would not exceed 200 billion while the expenditures of the government were more than 400 billion, or when sometimes 50 percent was spent on the war. The official revenues of the government budget could not even make up for the implemental expenditures of the government. And what could be done but borrow from the banking system to keep this country on its feet? Considering the pressures and many problems and shortcomings that existed in the past few years, if not for the power of the nation and the religious self-sacrifice of the people, there would no longer exist a country. In conclusion, Mr. Ruhani-Nia added: On the whole, a good budget has been devised, and, God willing, we will be able to move to achieve it. You know that, after all, this country is the heir to a totally dependent industry. How many incomplete factories and incomplete plans and projects did we have in this country after the victory of the revolution? To complete the incomplete projects and plans alone would take something in the range of 500 billion tomans. At the present time, the Industries and Mines Bank has officially announced that if it starts no new projects, it needs $3 billion in foreign currency to complete these incomplete plans and projects. After all, this burden has been left on our shoulders. We cannot just abandon it and make plans on the basis of today's characteristics of the revolution and today's culture of the revolution.

Sadeqi-Azad (Opponent)

Mr. Sadeqi-Azad spoke as the third opponent. Quoting parts of the imam's last will and testament, in which he asked the Majles not to hesitate to serve the people, and referring to Note 5 of the first economic, social, and cultural development plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: The Province of Eastern Azerbaijan has 4,626 villages, 85 percent of which lacked roads at the beginning of the revolution. With the overall efforts made so far, still 1,500 villages with over 20 families lack roads, which means we need 7,000 km of roads. If we say that the maximum time for the villages to wait for roads is 20 years and not five years, and the existing village roads, which are generally dirt roads, are to be repaired once every 10 years, this province requires 350 million tomans annually for road construction. If we expect Note 5 to be implemented in 20 years, we must allocate 1.750 billion to it for five years. However, with what has been ratified, it will take 60 years to achieve.

Mr. Sadeqi added: I am not against the plan. We went to the Plan and Budget Committee to talk to them, but we saw that it was closed. They say that they have moved to another place, so others cannot talk. Why should others not talk? Who are we, after all? Why should we not go there and express our views? Why should we not go and shout? The Azerbaijan region is a leper region and has no drinking water and no mortuary either.

Mr. Shafe'i (Supporting)

The third supporter of the budget bill was Mr. Shafe'i, the representative of the people of Marand, who said in his speech: In my opinion, the current years budget must have several characteristics. (1) The first characteristic is that the budget must be within the framework of the plan. (2) A desirable budget focuses attention on production, jobs, and fixed investments in industry, agriculture, and mines. Since we see this tendency in the budget, we believe that it must be supported. The honorable Majles is aware that the inflationary budget and the increase in the prices of goods in the country are caused by one thing, which is insufficient production with regard to demands. I do not say supply and demand, because I do not agree with uncontrolled imports and the opening up of the import gates of the country. Rather, I emphasize production in the country. (3) Attention is paid to incomplete projects in the agricultural and industries sector and the developmental sectors of the country. One of the major problems that we faced in the course of the past decade was the ratification of the developmental plan and annual investments in various sectors in the country without having a serious plan to complete them. Hence, we have been harmed from this point a great deal, because a significant amount of national capital is dormant in the form of incomplete projects which have not reached the point of profitability. To refuse to pay attention to this point, naturally, is to discard our investments. I see this point of view reflected in the 1369 budget bill.

Then, referring to the budget of the oppressed regions, he said: I believe and it can be proven that little attention has been paid to Azarbaijan in the budget bills. But now that there is an opportunity, we should not begin to speak about what is unrelated to the budget bill.

Continuing, he announced the 10.5 percent general growth of the current funds of the country and said:

Today, we are the custodians of a country left over after 2,500 years of monarchical tyranny, and ultimately we have to try year by year to work hard to develop the country and eliminate deprivation. We consider 750 billion rials in funds for the tribes to signify the elimination of deprivation. In attending to the tribes, who are

generally the livestock keepers and providers of livestock and meat in the country and are working, we consider this 750 billion rials to be significant and acceptable. This shows decisively the government's leanings and the leanings of the Majles towards eliminating deprivation and focusing attention on depressed areas. Our friend should not be unkind and should not ignore the hard work of the executive officials, the honorable representatives, the governors-general, the governors, the directors of departments, and the government employees of this country who work to eliminate deprivation. When we talk in generalities, we might judge that nothing has been accomplished in the country. But I claim and the figures show that work has been done very well. Of course, more must be done, and this is not enough. We also believe that the urban and urban development funds of the country should go to the villages, and we also believe that we must pay attention to the affairs of the villages, the development of villages, agriculture in the villages, animal husbandry in the villages, treatment in villages, and births in villages and place alongside these the national funds, the national resources, and the national budget in order to make rational decisions.

Hoseyni-Shahrudi (Opponent)

The fourth opponent of the 1369 budget was Mr. Hoseyni-Shahrudi, the representative of the people of Shahrud, who said: In fact, one of the most sensitive annual bills of the Majles is the budget bill, which determines the fate of one year of the revenues and expenditures of the country. But, unfortunately, I must say that the most important bill that determines the fate of the economy of the country is ratified in a very brief amount of time in the Majles and, in my opinion, is less thoroughly thought through and researched than many other ordinary bills. And still, what is ratified in the Majles? Is it that we want to ratify a series of notes to be inserted in some lines or articles that may not even be discussed when we are ratifying them? In fact, the main issue of the budget is the problem of lines that are never discussed in the Majles, not even once.

He pointed out: When a budget is written, a balance must be observed in it. In other words, the expenditures and revenues must match. It has been said of old that a miserable person is one whose expenditures exceed his income; an average person is one whose income and expenditures are equal; and a fortunate person is one whose income exceeds his expenditures. The budget that we are ratifying every year is the worst kind of budget, because there is no balance at all between the revenues and the expenditures. Look and see, with the exception of two or three countries, is there any other country in which 30 to 35 percent of its budget is provided through borrowing? What is the reason for this economic crisis that you have in the country today, and which the government with all its policies that I endorse cannot harness? What is the source of this problem of high prices and inflation that exists in the country? It is because of these budgets that we are ratifying. The honorable spokesman of the committee said that one of the advantages of this budget is that it leans towards the oppressed and the deprived. I must say that such a tendency does not exist in the budget at all. Rather, it is inclined in the opposite direction, even though on the surface we have set aside a budget for the oppressed regions, the combatants, and the oppressed and deprived classes of the society. Mr. Hoseyni then spoke about inflation and said: Inflation is not bad for everyone. For 10 percent of the people in the society, inflation is a blessing, these rich people who have become so because of inflation. The ones suffering from inflation are 90 percent of the people in the society. Brothers, do not think that inflation affects only a number of profiteering capitalists. Do you think there is any piety in such people? If the economic system is a sound system in a society, it would not allow profiteering at all. When the economy is unsound, profiteering is created. As a result, one stratum rises and another falls. Unfortunately, the movement is towards the downtrodden becoming more so and the oppressor becoming more powerful. When we increase the volume of cash flow in the society and do not observe a balance between money, cash flow, and production, when we think all problems can be solved with money (although it is not so; money is only like a check that may not have any funds in the bank to cover it), we continue to inject money into the society and create competition for one item and one unit. As a result, the inflation that we have in the society is created. It will be a sad day when inflation cannot be controlled by the government. On that day, we must hit ourselves on the head. And this is a problem that has resulted in this budget that we are ratifying.

He added: For the budget to have 140 billion tomans in borrowed money, how can this Majles ratify this volume of borrowing all at once? Are we thus creating inflation, or are the bazaar and the society doing it? In fact, we must say that the main cause is with us.

Mr. Hoseyni-Shahrudi continued: This year, in Note 3, you have allocated a budget of 150 billion rials, and it is said that it is for the deprived, for such activities as creating jobs. You brothers know that in your constituencies are a series of incomplete projects. To ratify this note means that once again we will abandon, for instance, 1,000 incomplete projects. Allow two or three years to pass with fewer agreements in principle so that those which were started in the past can come to fruition, reach the stage of jobs and production, and then we can start again.

He added: In this year's budget, 150 million tomans have been projected for taxes. From where are we going to collect these taxes? With what system and from what source are you going to increase the taxes by 40 percent? If you go to indirect taxes, it would be excessive for the oppressed stratum in the society, and if you want to collect direct taxes, one must ask through what mechanism and with which tools? Today, again the oppressed stratum, the salaried people, and the small businessmen who are above board, are paying the taxes in the country. Those who profit 1 million, 10 million, and 1 billion in

one transaction, as God is my witness, are still hidden from the eyes of our taxing system, and their numbers are not small. I know that at the end of the year, you will present to the Majles a 30- to 40-billion-toman amendment to the budget. This year, too, they wanted to add an amendment. But selling preferred foreign currency saved the national budget, for which I thank and praise the serving government.

In another part of his speech, he said:

Dear brothers, let us, even if for only once, not vote for this budget bill so that the Plan and Budget Organization can make a decision about this country. How long must we borrow in order to spend? Should we not think about our revenues and expenditures being balanced some day? The solution is to ratify one-twelfth or one-sixth of it so that they can modify the expenditures, because a number of our current expenditures are futile. We must give a series of developmental projects to the people. Do not give them to the private sector and the capitalists. Rather, give them to the public sector, so that the cash flow in the hands of the people will move towards production. Give the large factories that the government is investing in to the cooperative sector, so that all the people can have a share in them. We must reduce the number of ministries and organizations, because they will cause bureaucratic corruption.

In conclusion, Mr. Shahrudi said: As soon as we ask, What have you done about borrowing? they answer, We are moving borrowing in a negative direction, and it will reach zero by the end of the year. Here, the question is, since last year, which was the first year of the plan, have you been able to reduce borrowing so far? No, you have not been able to reduce it, but have increased it.

Yusofpur (Supporting)

The fourth supporter was Mr. Yusofpur, the representative of Ardal, who said: We do not deny borrowing in the budget bill, but we believe that it is declining. We believe that in the past 10 years, the oppressed areas have not been served a great deal, and due to the war and the problems of the country, certainly the wishes of the imam and the officials have not materialized. In the meetings of the assembly of the representatives of the deprived regions, during many sessions with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a proposal was made for the establishment of an office to attend to the problems of the oppressed and deprived regions, and the president even appointed Mr. Besharati to this important office. In the Five-Year Plan, two notes, Notes 5 and 6, are on eliminating deprivation. On the basis of Note 5, electricity outreach, road building, health and treatment, and jobs will be created, and according to Note 6, tax reduction, the creation of educational institutes, and the reduction in the price of water and electricity have also been taken into consideration.

He also said: In the 1369 budget, in addition to the provincial funds and budgets, for the first time, specific lines and notes are proposed [for the oppressed regions]. We hope that after the implementation of the first Five-Year Plan, we will not have deprived areas. For this reason, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced his support for increasing the budget for the deprived regions. We believe that the funds and the notes are sufficient for the deprived regions. The provincial directors and the ministries must allocate funds as they see fit and remember the imam's statement: "I do not believe there is any worship higher than serving the oppressed." The direction of the budget towards the elimination of deprivation, which has increased this year, consists of special priority for interest-free loans to the families of martyrs, combatants, and self-sacrificers and the allocation of 50 percent of the interest-free loans to research, art, and athletic affairs in the deprived regions. In Note 4 of the budget, by allocating 150 billion rials, attention is paid to the rural fishing and joint partnership cooperative companies, which can be increased if there are shortages. Based on Note 6, about 3.2 billion rials have been allocated, of which about 70 percent will be spent in rural and tribal regions. Mr. Yusofpur continued: With the increase in the ceiling of funds in Note 9 in connection with the defense budget, the enemy must know that we will not give up one inch of our soil, and our combatants shall withstand bravely. Paragraph B of Note 16, the funds of which were to be deposited into the accounts of the middlemen, which was a case of injustice and contrary to planning, creating disruption in the programs of the country, has fortunately been omitted. In Note 37, 45 billion rials in funds have been allotted to the deprived regions for electricity outreach, education, jobs, and health and treatment. Hopefully, these regions will no longer be deprived by the end of the Five-Year Plan. The deprived regions will be developed when the specialized work force is attracted to them and the reduction in the price of water and electricity in this connection is significant. Here, I request of the administrative and employment, and plan and budget organizations that they implement the ratifications of the government in regard to the salaries and benefits of the government employees starting next year, so that we can have more experts and committed persons in the deprived regions. In connection with education, 1.8 billion tomans in addition to the provincial budget have been allocated to individuals who must be educated in the deprived regions. We hope that by creating education centers these regions will become self-sufficient in terms of manpower. According to one of the paragraphs in Note 6, the Ministries of Industry and Energy must give priority to industrial and economic investments in the deprived regions. In this connection, we would like to complain about some of the government companies and ministries not being inclined to do so.

He then referred to the increase in the production of military industries and said: "In the beginning of the war we did not even produce J-3's and Kalashnikovs, but because of this blessing, at the present we produce all the ammunition that we need for fighting. Before, we had to buy 120-type mortar shells from thousands of dealers; today, we produce them domestically, and we have even

been able to manufacture missiles with a 130-km range. What funds did those in the Guards Corps and the army who were able to carry out military research to this extent use to create such glory? In the area of dam building, before the revolution, not even one earthen dam was built by domestic forces, whereas after the revolution several concrete dams were built.

Sadeq Khalkhali (Opposing)

Mr. Khalkhali was the fifth opponent to the budget bill. He said: I have nothing to do with figures and numbers because when those figures are in the hands of the Plan and Budget Committee, they are interpreted one way. The accounting office interprets them another way, and the representatives of the government and the committee still another way.

He continued: I am surprised that Mr. Harati said inflation last year was 28 percent and this year it has been controlled and has reached 18 percent. I regret this statement. This is a cosmetic window dressing used to explain what has happened to inflation. Has 10 percent changed to 28 percent or vise versa? Why do you interpret the issue and present it to the people in such a way that the people will say you are playing with numbers and figures? You have either not understood the reality or have failed to tell the people the facts.

Mr. Khalkhali added: The people have been cut down by high prices. No matter what you say, this year prices are much higher than last year.

He also referred to the volume of money and cash flow in the private sector and said: What was the volume of cash flow before and what is it now? The volume of money is 1,600 billion rials. Where is all this money? The money is in the hands of a group outside the government. Half of this money might be in the hands of the government and the rest in the hands of hoarders, in the hands of the bazaar merchants, the jewelers. If you want to balance the budget, why do you not go after taxes? In Qom, which is a religious city and does not have many modernized people, 40 million tomans in taxes are collected every month. They say if personnel and resources are made available, this figure will reach 120 million tomans. Why do you not do it? God knows, the people support you and want the facts. The people will provide this budget, but only if you are truthful with them.

He also added: In the beginning of the revolution, see how many villages were ruined and how many are now? In the beginning of the revolution, 20 percent of the villages were ruined, but now, according to one of the representatives, 80 percent of our villages are in ruins. Do you know why? Because you have concentrated your resources in Tehran.

(Mr. Karrubi in response to Mr. Khalkhali: The figures are provided by the Central Bank.) Mr. Khalkhali continued: I place no value on the figures that are provided by the Central Bank. Your villages are being ruined. Why do you not attend to them? You only attend to Tehran. Why? Give people electricity. Give people resources. Why do you give half the budget to Tehran, which is followed by so much misery and unemployment? When you do not attend to the people, what should the people do? The people support the officials and the government. But they say that you have imposed inflation and high prices on us. Why do you execute so many smugglers, yet in the course of the revolution, you have not even executed one of the hoarders, who, as Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani says, are economic terrorists? Identify these people.

At the end of Mr. Khalkhali's speech, Mr. Karrubi said:

"These are the personal views of Mr. Khalkhali. The general conditions indicate that our situation is improving. Despite all these shortages, much work has been done in the villages."

The continuation of the speeches of the opposing and supporting representatives will be published on Wednesday.

Nepal & Bhutan

Situation Worsens With Strikes, Clashes

BK0504094290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 5 (AFP)—Nepal's political situation worsened Thursday [5 April] with street violence spreading, key state-run sectors striking in support of the democracy movement and calls for protest runs on major banks. Witnesses said riot police and protestors demanding a return to multi-party politics clashed overnight Wednesday on the streets of six Kathmandu districts. Angry police were seen throwing stones at residents' houses.

Youths in some areas—blanketed in total darkness as residents observed a lights out protest—returned the missiles and shouted slogans denouncing Nepal's 30-year partyless panchayat system and demanding democracy, they said. Police carrying powerful flashlights retaliated by firing teargas to disperse mobs that had set up barricades with huge pipes, logs and boulders. An undetermined number of demonstrators were arrested.

Hundreds of employees from several key state-controlled sectors, including banks, health services, and the Royal Nepal Airlines Corp. (RNAC), staged a two-hour strike until noon, witnesses said.

Pieter Roeloffs, a West German advisor to the Nepal Agriculture Bank, joined bank employees in a sit-in before the head office. He said he was there to "help Nepalese friends meet their demand for democracy and human rights."

Leaflets were handed out Thursday in the capital calling for runs on Nepal's four major banks, including the Central Nepal Rastra Bank, to protest the government's

alleged use of funds for the crackdown on dissent. The leaflets, distributed under the name of the banks' employees, said the government had already withdrawn one billion rupee (35.2 million dollars) for suppression purposes since the nationwide protest movement began February 18. A senior central bank official denied the allegation saying the "leaflet has been circulated by extremists with the sinister design to let the public draw money." He also called for the public to remain calm.

Pakistan

Envoy Briefs President on Relations With India

BK0404153390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Pakistan High Commissioner to India Bashir Babar called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today and apprised him on the current state of Pakistan-India relations. He said Pakistan desires good and constructive relations with India. He, however, said Pakistan's stand is clear regarding the disputed territory which is based on principles and that there has been no change in it since 1947. The president expressed the desire that these disputes should be settled peacefully through a dialogue.

Bhutto Speaks on Anniversary of Father's Death

BK0504053590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has declared that the mission of Shaheed [Martyr] Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto left incomplete with his martyrdom would be completed step by step. She was addressing a huge public meeting at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh near Larkana today on the 11th anniversary of the death of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. She said Shaheed Bhutto was a man of vision and voice. He had great (?eagerness) and a dream to see Pakistan among the frontline countries of the world. She enumerated achievements of the late prime minister in various fields and said his support to the Islamic cause was a unique achievement which was not possible by any other leader. Ms. Benazir Bhutto recalled that Shaheed Bhutto had announced that we would achieve held Kashmir and for this we are ready to fight for a thousand years.

She said a false case was registered against him and he was martyred on the basis of fictitious evidence by those who were hungry for power.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the former dictator General Ziaul Haq could not amend the constitution of 1973, but he changed its shape through a number of amendments and (?ruined) its real spirit. She announced that the 1973 constitution would be restored in its original shape to parliament.

Speaking on the occasion, the senior federal minister, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, said Shaheed Bhutto, who had become a symbol of democracy and voice of the people, lived in the hearts of the people despite all sorts of terror and punishment inflicted upon them. She said that the conspiracy being hatched against the present government by antidemocratic elements would be foiled with the help and support of the people. The elected government, she said, will fulfill all its commitments made to the people.

The prime minister visited the mazar [tomb] of Shaheed Bhutto in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh. She laid a wreath at the mazar and offered fateha [prayers]. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

President Addresses Parliament Session

BK0404120990 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] President R. Premadasa says the ultimate objective of the government is not merely development for the sake of development. The fruits of development should be shared by all and not by a favorite or privileged few. He added that he must try to build a society in which justice, fair play, and equity will reign supreme. The president made these observations when he addressed members of parliament after he declared open the second session of the second parliament.

The president noted that normalcy has been restored in every sphere of economic and social life of the community. The fear psychosis that enveloped the whole country is fast disappearing. The wheels of trade and commerce are now turning, foreign tourists are coming back in large numbers, new enterprises are being opened, janasaviya [social welfare program] has got off the ground, universities and schools have been reopened, all development activities have been resumed, the economy is picking up its lost momentum. If further destruction does not take place, there is every possibility that the desired development objectives could be achieved.

The president pointed out that the country's foreign policy will be primarily based on the promotion of national interest and the preservation of our self-respect. He noted that Sri Lanka will never compromise its sovereignty or barter its independence to anyone. The president said we must proceed speedily to mend fences and establish national reconciliation which alone could lay the foundation for a durable national unity and national integration.

Speaks on Israel, Domestic Issues

BK0504113890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpts] President Premadasa has said that the ultimate objective of his government is not merely development for the sake of development. The fruits of development should be shared by all, and not by favored or privileged few. Accordingly, we should strive to build a

new society in which justice, fair play and equity will reign supreme. Ceremonially inaugurating the second session of the second parliament yesterday, the president said that he could see normalcy beging restored in every sphere of economic and social life of the community. The fear psychosis that enveloped the whole country is fast disappearing. [passage omitted]

Referring to our foreign policy, he said it will be primarily based on the promotion of our national interests and the preservation of our self-respect. In this context, we would welcome encouragement, assistance and support from abroad. But we will never compromise our sovereignty or barter our independence to anyone.

The president pointed out that the government has decided to terminate the Israeli interests section. Sri Lanka will only resume diplomatic relations with Israel once it recognizes the Palestine Liberation Organization as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, withdraws from all occupied Palestinian territory, and agrees to participate in an international conference on the Middle East convened by the United Nations.

It is said that we have overcome terrorism to a great extent. It does not mean that we have found permanent solutions to the problems of social unrest in the country. That is why dialogue and discussions with all parties and groups on all unresolved issues should continue uninterrupted. There are more things that unite our multiethnic people than that divide us. We have had a shared past; we have had shared aspirations; we share many common hopes for the future. It is on this basis that we should build national reconciliation. He emphasized that we must proceed especially to mend the fences and establish national reconciliation which alone could lay the foundation for that durable national unity and national integration. The government will soon take measures to establish the necessary steps toward this goal. [passage omitted]

All-Party Conference Held on National Issues

BK0404084490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0743 GMT 4 Apr 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 4 (LANKAPUVATH)—The representative committee of the all-party conference met from 4 PM to 6 PM yesterday at the presidential secretariat. President R. Premadasa chaired the meeting at which 19 political parties and groups were present, a presidential secretariat release said. The representative committee took up for discussion, proposals made by parties and groups on three issues, namely: "safeguarding of fundamental rights, ensuring security for all in all parts of the country, and liberalisation of the media."

Shevardnadze Greets Foreign Minister Herath

BK0504105190 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0956 GMT 5 Apr 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 5 (LANKAPUVATH)—USSR Foreign Minister E. Shevardnadze in his congratulatory message to Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Harold Herath states, "On the occasion of your appointment to the post of minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I send you most cordial congratulations and best wishes. I express the hope that your activities at this post will promote the strengthening of stability and good-neighbourliness in South Asia, and further development of friendly relations between the USSR and Sri Lanka."